



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Vacancy title	Desktop research consultant
Type of contract	Consultancy contract
Location	Home-based
Starting date	1 April 2019
Expected working days	50 to 60 days
Expected duration	From April 2019 to July 2019 (3-4 months)
Application deadline	28.02.2019

1. CONTEXT

1.1 BACKGROUND

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE, Office International des Epizooties) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in 2018 counted a total of 182 Member Countries.

The OIE¹ maintains permanent relations with nearly 75 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and Sub-regional Representations on every continent, of which 4 in Africa: Bamako, Mali; Gaborone, Botswana; Tunis, Tunisia and Nairobi, Kenya.

1.2 PURPOSE

1.2.1 About the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway

The Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway² is the OIE's global flagship programme for the sustainable improvement of national Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. To help ensure the effective performance of the Veterinary Services of its Members, the OIE has dedicated two Chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC, or the Terrestrial Code) to the Quality of Veterinary Services. These OIE international standards constitute the basis for independent external country evaluations on the quality of Veterinary Services and have been adopted by all OIE Members.

A specific methodology has been developed and the OIE has published the "OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services" (the OIE PVS Tool) as the basis for evaluating performance against the international standards published in the Terrestrial Code. A similar tool is available for the evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services.

¹ More information:

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/Key_Documents/EN_LeafletOIE_web.pdf

² More information: <http://www.oie.int/en/solidarity/pvs-pathway/>



Only OIE-certified PVS experts can carry out independent external PVS Evaluations of country Veterinary Services and/or implement PVS Gap Analysis (planning and costing element) missions. These experts have undergone training sessions organised by the OIE.

All PVS Pathway experts use standardised tools, indicators and Experts' Manuals, prepared and published by the OIE Headquarters, which also include template reports. Generally, PVS Pathway missions comprise 2 - 4 PVS Experts which undertake in-country visits for 2 - 4 weeks depending on the size and complexity of the country. A peer-reviewed report is approved by the country before finalisation.

1.2.2 About the SVSDC Project

The Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries (SVSDC) Project is a 4-year project funded by the European Union, through the European Parliament and the European Commission, aimed at building better African Veterinary Services that deliver effective governance, health safety, food security and food safety for their citizens.

This Project³ specifically addresses the compliance of African Veterinary Services with the standards on the quality of Veterinary Services of the OIE.

The project consists of two components and aims to achieve 5 outcomes, one of which is:

Output 1.2: National Veterinary Services have been gradually brought up to the standards of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), through the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions and of their recommendations.

This is to be demonstrated (objectively verifiable indicators) through the: "Improvement in the levels of advancement (LoA) of the 47 critical competencies (CC) of the PVS matrix, over time", whereby the target result is that: "at least 40 African countries improve the 47 critical competencies of the PVS matrix".⁴

1.2.3 Background

There are currently 51 countries in Africa that have engaged in the PVS Pathway, out of 54 OIE Member States in Africa. The three countries that have yet to engage in the PVS Pathway are Somalia (PVS Evaluation requested in 2008, mission pending given the security situation in the country which prevents OIE from envisaging a field mission, covering most federal states), South Sudan (became an OIE Member after its independence and has not yet applied for a PVS mission due to the ongoing civil war) and the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). The latter applied for a PVS Evaluation in 2011 and it is expected that the mission will have been conducted by the time this work is undertaken (2019).

Once the mission has been conducted and the report written, peer-reviewed and accepted by the country, the OIE Delegate of that country can decide to keep the report confidential, allow OIE to share it with development partners only (technical agencies and donors) or to share it in the public domain. In the latter case, these reports can be downloaded from any OIE website (international, Africa), otherwise from a dedicated password-protected database to which only official development partners have access. These would typically include e.g. African Union, World Bank, FAO, WHO, Economic Community of West African States, etc.

Hence out of the 51 available (initial) PVS Evaluation reports, only 40 are available for scrutiny under the proposed scope of work (at the time of drafting of these ToRs).

³ More information: <http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/svs.html>

⁴ Source: Logical framework, Action document, Grant contract. Annex 1.

OIE Member Countries	54
Reports available	51
Reports labelled “confidential”	4
Reports labelled N/D *	7
Reports labelled P&D **	29
Reports in the public domain	11

(*) “No Decision”, decision on clearance pending

(**) “Partners and donors” (development partners)

In general, each report contains an assessment of 47 Critical Competencies (CC), grouped under 4 Fundamental Components (FC). These are:

1. HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
2. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY
3. INTERACTION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES
4. ACCESS TO MARKETS

Every CC is awarded a level of advancement (LoA) from 1 (no compliance with the international standard) to 5 (going beyond compliance with the international standard).

Note that 47 CCs are currently used in the 6th Edition of the OIE PVS Tool, published in 2013,⁵ but that earlier versions, since its commencement in 2006, featured less CCs. Over time, CCs have been added, deleted and their definitions and level of advancement (LoA), changed.

For instance, the (updated) 1st Edition of the Tool, published in 2006, only featured 30 CCs, whereas the 2nd Edition of the Tool, published in 2007, already featured 40 CCs.

Over and above the mere numerical score awarded for any given CC, the reports contain narrative, qualitative information on the findings which led to the choice of a LoA, with in addition strengths, weaknesses and recommendations, along with a list of “evidence” (usually documents and pictures which support the claims made under “findings”).

Once a country has undergone an initial PVS Evaluation mission (a qualitative analysis), it may apply for a PVS Gap-Analysis Mission, which will enable the country to assess the cost to bridge the gap with what is achievable through a 5-year action plan (a quantitative analysis). E.g. a country having been assessed at Level of Advancement 2 in 2007 (as part of an initial PVS Evaluation mission) may regard it as feasible to reach Level of Advancement 3 in the next 5 years, i.e. by 2012, provided a strategy can be implemented, possibly, but not necessarily, requiring investments (both recurrent and capital investments), to be made available either by the Government or by a donor or both.

Depending on the willingness of the country to enter the PVS Pathway and the time at which it entered this Pathway, there may be up to 6 PVS reports available for any given country:

- (initial) Evaluation report,
- Gap-Analysis report
- Evaluation follow-up report

⁵ http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/pdf/PVS_A_Tool_Final_Edition_2013.pdf

- Gap-Analysis update report
- Veterinary Legislation Identification mission report
- Veterinary Laboratory mission report

The PVS Evaluation reports of Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) are outside the scope of work, which focuses on the project's main aim, i.e. strengthening of Veterinary Services in developing countries (SVSDC).

Overall, there are currently (October 2018) 160 PVS Pathway reports available from the African continent, the majority of which are available for the proposed analysis.

2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant will be expected to make use of the available information, not only PVS (initial) Evaluation reports, but also PVS Gap Analysis reports, PVS Evaluation Follow-up reports, Veterinary Legislation Identification mission reports and Veterinary Laboratory mission reports, to present an overview of progress made by countries in moving towards compliance with the OIE international standards.

E.g. a country having been assessed at Level of Advancement 2 in 2007 (as part of an initial PVS Evaluation mission) and having been assessed at Level of Advancement 3 in 2016 (as part of a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission) would be regarded as having made progress in moving towards compliance with OIE standards. However, in many cases progress may be described in the narrative text without necessarily meeting the requirements to move to a higher Level of Advancement. The processing of the text sections which justify the Levels of Advancement is therefore critical (qualitative analysis).

Ideally, this information should be presented for all 47 currently used Critical Competencies (CC) though this may not always be possible (refer to comments above on the changes in the number of CCs over time).

The methodology used by the consultant will enable the aggregation of information:

- Per country, for all critical competencies;
- Per region, for all critical competencies;
- Per critical competency, for all countries;
- Per fundamental component, for all countries.

Several such analyses have been conducted in the past, but always for a limited number of criteria, either geographical (West Africa) or topical (veterinary medicinal products, animal welfare, risk analysis, veterinary staffing and training, etc). An example for the continental analysis of one only one such CC (risk analysis) was published at the beginning of the year⁶:

It is reiterated that the changes of CCs in number and scope, as well as the three confidentiality statuses of reports, render the presentation of results inherently complex and this will have to be catered for by a scientifically robust and –where possible- statistically sound methodology.

⁶ <http://www.bastiaensen.be/15-bastiaensen-163-174.pdf>

Furthermore, the output of this consultancy will have to clearly differentiate parts that are for internal use (mentioning names of countries, even when clearance is limited) and for public consumption, where no countries should be identifiable, not through lists, tables and/or maps.

In some cases, it may be relevant to provide additional insights, e.g. where certain subjects (CC) may not be handled by the Veterinary Services (or Authority), but by another Competent Authority (e.g. public health services, wildlife services, municipal services, etc...), where decentralisation or devolution of powers (federalised countries) has taken a number of powers away from the national Veterinary Authority, or where issues are handled through a multi-sectoral approach, including a One Health approach.⁷

Likewise, any statistically relevant correlations, within regions, or between inter-related CCs are to be computed and highlighted. The consultant is equally encouraged to investigate any statistically relevant correlations with macro-economic parameters, such as Livestock to GDP, Livestock to Agricultural GDP, GDP, HDI, etc...

Reports are currently available as pdf (Acrobat Reader portable document file format) files only, nonetheless allowing for word search operations. Note that reports may be available in English, French or Spanish/Portuguese.

2.2 EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The study should be concluded and deliverables surrendered latest by 15 July 2019.

The consultant should ensure the delivery of the following outputs:

- A mid-study progress report, approximately mid-way into the assignment, including a detailed methodology and draft Technical report;
- Technical report (maximum of 100 pages), illustrated (tables, maps, graphs, pictures);
- Executive summary (1,000 to 1,500 words, text only);
- Article for a broader non-technical audience (for web publication purposes) 600 – 800 words;
- Power-point presentation (20 – 30 slides), using the OIE template.

The language and spelling/grammar of all output materials is UK/English.

All documents are to be submitted electronically, in Word format, Power-Point format and/or Acrobat Reader format (.pdf) as appropriate. Excel spreadsheets having contributed to the statistical analysis and/or production of tables and graphs are to be added. Maps are submitted in high resolution format as separate .jp(e)g or .png files.

None of the reports, documents and related supports may be used in other publications, whether paper-based or electronic, without the prior and written approval of the OIE Director General.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Eligibility criteria (either united in one candidate or provided by several proposed team members, as applicable) are as follows:

- Degree(s) in agricultural economics, agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences or related fields;

⁷ For more information on the One Health concept

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Publications_%26_Documentation/docs/pdf/bulletin/Bull_2013-1-ENG.pdf

- (main) Consultant (team leader) should possess at least 15 years of demonstrated experience;
- (secondary) Consultant (ancillary) should possess at least 10 years of demonstrated experience, where applicable;
- Demonstrated (cumulative) experience of at least 8 years working in Africa or dealing with African portfolios;
- Demonstrated familiarity with the subject of (public) Veterinary Services delivery and knowledge of the OIE and its international standards;
- Proficiency with word processing and advanced spreadsheet applications/software;
- Thorough understanding of statistical methods and interpretation of results;
- Proficiency in English (oral and written English).

Additionally,

- Prior exposure to the PVS Pathway methodology is regarded as a strength, but is not essential;
- Command of French and Spanish/Portuguese (by one or more of the proposed candidates) is regarded as a strength but is not essential.

4. WORK ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 ORGANISATION OF THE WORK

This is a home-based assignment expected to require a total of 3 working-months, whereby there is freedom to conduct this study as an individual, or as a team. The study is entirely desktop-based, based on analysis of electronic documents. All necessary support and documentation will be provided to the Consultant(s) by Patrick Bastiaensen, with relevant support from the World Fund and Regional Activities Departments.

The Consultant(s) is/are not authorised to contact OIE Delegates or any other Member Country representatives in order to obtain clarification or additional information. This will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and with the explicit prior authorisation of the Head of the Regional Activities Department (RAD).

4.1 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Thirty percent (30%) of the total price will be paid upon the signature of the contract;
- Thirty percent (30%) of the total price will be paid after receipt of a mid-study progress report;
- The balance payment will be issued upon reception and validation of the final deliverables (Technical report, executive summary, article, and presentation) by the OIE.

5. STRUCTURE OF THE RESPONSE

Interested applicant(s) are invited to submit an *Expression of Interest* (EOI) including the following:

- Maximum 4-page 'Expression of Interest' that provides information on the proposed methodology for carrying out the study, including the following sections:
 - Understanding of the project;
 - General methodology (including analytical approach, major constraints and pre-requisites such as data requirements, risk factors, quality assurance methods, etc.);



- Professional profiles (expertise, past similar experience, rationale for team-set up if more than one, language skills etc.);
- Cost;
- Timeline;
- Any additional information.
- Maximum 4-page CV with information on related experience (for each of the candidates, if joint submission);
- Two (2) work samples of peer reviewed related work;
- Contact details of 3 academic/professional referees.

6. RESPONSE PROCEDURE

The OIE places high value on a multicultural and positive work environment and seeks gender and geographical balance in its international consultants.

The OIE welcomes applications of all qualified candidates, irrespective of their ethnic origin, gender, opinions or beliefs.

If you are interested in the position, please complete your application online by **28 February 2019** at the latest by clicking on the link below.

Should you have any questions, please contact Patrick Bastiaensen at p.bastiaensen@oie.int.

In the first phase, short listed candidates/teams will be invited to make a (video-link) presentation on their EOI's after which a final screening will be conducted.

[APPLY HERE](#)