



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

---- TWO-MONTH SECONDMENT ----

WITHIN

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
TO ADVANCE GEOLOGICAL & OCEAN POLICY ACTIVITIES**

Africa Deep Seabed Resources (ADSR) Project

[CLOSING DATE: 25 Octobre 2019](#)

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. Africa is the world's second largest and second-most-populous continent. It covers approximately 30.3 million km² and is bordered by the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, as well as by the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Described as a big 'Island Continent', Africa has 38 out of its 54 States as coastal States. Maritime zones under Africa's jurisdiction include about 13 million km² including approximately 6.5 million km² over the continental shelf.

2. The wealth of natural resources includes living and non-living marine resources that are to be found in the oceans and seas surrounding the African Continent, has led to a growing interest in the sustainable development of the African Blue Economy. This is reflected in the African Union (AU) 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy (January 2014), in the publication by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) entitled "Africa's Blue Economy: A Policy Handbook" (March 2016) and in the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development (Lome Charter) adopted by the African Heads of State in October 2016. It is also assumed that the ADSR Project will strongly contribute to the

discussions and achievements of the Africa's Blue Economy in the context of the African Decade of Seas and Oceans (2015–2025), and reflected in the Agenda 2063 : The Africa we want, the strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years, which expressly identifies “exploration and beneficiation of deep sea minerals” as a key driver for the development of the Africa's Blue Economy.

3. However, Africa is the only regional group which has so far not engaged with sponsoring activities in the Area through the signing of exploration contracts with the International Seabed Authority (ISA). A well-thought out strategy towards promoting Africa's engagement with the international seabed regime would ensure that, at some point, African States and their nationals, both natural and juridical, would have the opportunity to engage in exploration activities in the deep sea. Also, it would facilitate the development of appropriate technical and scientific institutions that could enable Africa to actively participate in this vital regime for the Ocean.

4. ISA in partnership with the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) have officially announced at the UN Ocean Conference held in New York in June 2017, the launch of their voluntary commitment to foster cooperation to promote the sustainable development of Africa's deep seabed resources in support of Africa's Blue Economy ([#OceanAction16374](https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16374))¹.

5. This commitment aims at raising awareness among African States about the importance and opportunities associated with the development of Africa's continental shelf and increased participation of African citizens in exploration activities undertaken in adjacent international seabed areas (the Area). This Project is also intended to facilitate consultation amongst relevant actors in order to contribute to the development of a dedicated strategy that will foster the enabling conditions for improved capacity-building opportunities for the continent and increased participation of African countries in activities undertaken in the Area.

2. STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF NATIONAL EXPERTS IN RELATION TO ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE AREA

6. One the expected results of the ADSR Project is to strengthen the technical capacity of national experts from African countries, members of ISA, in relation to activities undertaken in the Area.

7. Accordingly, besides the organization of regional workshops, the ADSR Project has been designed to provide 2-months secondments within ISA for ten (10) officials representatives of African countries, including at least five (5) women.

¹ See: [<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16374>]

8. The main objective of such secondments is two-fold. First, build on existing capacity-building initiatives to provide national experts with technical skills on deep-seabed related matters. Second, enable the ISA Secretariat to benefit from the contribution of such experts with a view of advancing specific tasks identified in partnership with the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC).

9. In relation to the potential areas of work for selected candidates, the Geology and Technical Group of the LTC (GTG-LTC) identified:

- (i) the need to support the Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources of the ISA Secretariat (OEMMR):
 - o in undertaking the assessment of geological data owned by ISA;
 - o in identifying gaps in data needed for ISA to monitor the development of the resources of the Area.
- (ii) the need to work with the ISA Secretariat and the data management group of the LTC to organise the geological data on the ISA database;
- (iii) foster cooperation with local university (geoscience) with a view to increase awareness on the work of ISA.

10. The Secretary-General also identified the need to open this secondment opportunity to candidates with experience in Ocean/Blue Economy Policy formulation and implementation.

3. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

11. The secondments are an opportunity for officials from African countries, members of ISA to be appointed on a special assignment within the ISA secretariat for a 2-month period.

12. The Experts will report directly to the **Director/OEMMR** (geology) and to the **Senior Policy Officer-Special Assistant to the Secretary-General** (Ocean/Blue Economy Policy) for all matters relating to the programme of work assigned and deliverables.

- (i) In the field of geological work, the successful selected Secondee/Expert will work closely with the **Director/OEMMR** to achieve the following:
 - o Support the assessment of data already owned by ISA and identifying gaps/needs;
 - o Work in close collaboration with the Data Management Group of the LTC;
 - o Foster the relationship between the Universities located in Jamaica and elsewhere to increase awareness on the geological work of the ISA
- (ii) In the field of Ocean/Blue Economy Policy, the successful selected Secondee/Expert will work closely with the **Senior Policy Officer-Special Assistant to the Secretary-General** to achieve the following:
 - o Support the implementation of the ADSR Project through delivery of outputs identified in the Project's Implementation Plan; and

- Support in the preparation of workshops proceedings as well as policy briefs and technical briefs summarizing key outcomes of awareness workshops.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

13. Secondments will be opened to government officials from African countries, members of ISA, who meet the following requirements (preference will be given to Government Officials):

(i) **Profile:** must be full-time employee of the releasing organization at the time of appointment and continue to receive their salary and benefits during the secondment from that organization. **Interns will not be considered.**

(ii) **Education:** should be equipped with relevant degree in geoscience (geology, geochemistry, geophysics - marine geoscience will be considered as an added advantage) and/or policy studies.

(iii) **Experience:** mid-career professionals with a proven track-record of experience and achievement in (a) resources assessment, resources management or (b) ocean policy, Blue Economy.

(iv) **Language:** good knowledge of English or French for daily conversation, reading and writing;

(v) **Health condition:** be in good mental and physical health;

(vi) **Age:** be between 32 and 48 years of age.

(vii) **Nationality:** be nationals of any African country, member of ISA.

5. SELECTION PROCESS

14. All applications shall be submitted to the ISA Secretariat (adsrproject@isa.org.jm) not later than **Friday 25 October 2019**.

15. The Secretariat will undertake a preliminary assessment of the eligibility of the applications received before to submit the suggested list of selected applicants to the Geological and Technical Group (GTG-LTC) of the Legal and Technical Commission for advice. The Secretary-General will be responsible for making the final selection.

16. The successful candidates will then be notified by the ISA Secretariat which will make, in close coordination with each candidate and relevant authorities, the necessary arrangements.

6. SECONDMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

17. The Secretariat will **ONLY** cover the cost incurred by travel (most direct and economic route), visa requirements and accommodation in Kingston. The Secondee/Expert will not be eligible to any ISA Staff entitlements.

18. Per diem will be provided for the duration of the secondment and may be paid monthly.
19. No salary replacement will be provided. **The releasing organization shall continue to directly pay the Secondee/Expert's salary and benefits.**
20. The releasing organization providing the Secondee/Expert will provide assurance that a position will be available when the Secondee/Expert returns from Kingston, Jamaica.
21. During the time of the secondment, the Secondee/Expert will not be subject to the ISA Staff rules and regulations (nor benefits and entitlements).

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

22. Upon completion of his/her secondment, the Secondee/Expert should provide an "End of Secondment" report to the *Senior Policy Officer – Special Assistant to the Secretary-General* describing:
 - (i) the achievements realised against the agreed plan of work; and
 - (ii) the lessons learned and how the work undertaken will benefit the country of citizenship and ISA.
23. The Secretariat may request further reports during and after the secondment term.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

Should further information is required, please contact Ms Marie Bourrel-McKinnon,
Senior Policy Officer – Special Assistant to the Secretary-General (mbourrel@isa.org.jm).
