

MINISTÉRIO DAS FINANÇAS, COMÉRCIO E DA ECONOMIA AZUL

(Unidade – Disciplina – Trabalho)

Agência Fiduciária e de Administração de Projetos
(AFAP)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)

FIRM TO AUDIT THE AFAP PROJECT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD
ENDING IN DECEMBER 2022, DECEMBER 2023, AND IN DECEMBER 2024 IN SAO
TOME AND PRINCIPE

The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe (GOSTP) has been received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the implementing nine projects mentioned below. The Fiduciary Agency of Administration of the Projects (AFAP) established under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy, has the overall fiduciary responsibility for implementation of these projects.

As such, AFAP intends to apply part of the proceeds for the provision of auditing services to the World Bank-funded Project portfolio in the country for the above-mentioned three (3) fiscal years.

This consulting services shall cover the following projects:

- 1. The Power Sector Recovery Project P157096** – STP financing agreement by IDA D1260, with an amount of USD 16 Million and IDA D5870, with an amount of USD 12 Million for 5 years would address STP's short term energy needs, increase energy production, and improve reliability of electricity supply. The project is the first World Bank lending operation in the energy sector in STP in over a decade. The project is thus a first step for the Bank to support the GoSTP to improve and expand affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy services in a financially sustainability manner.
- 2. The Institutional Capacity Building Project P162129** – financing agreement by IDA D3080, with an amount USD 12 million for 5 years, and IDA D8180, with an amount USD 7 million for 3 years consist of to improve capacity of public institutions, to supervise the banking system; promote access to finance; manage public finances; and produce national statistics.
- 3. The Transport Sector Development and Coastal Protection Project P161842** – STP - financing agreement by IDA D 4460, with an amount USD 29 million for 5 years, consist of to improve the connectivity sustainability, safety, and climate resilience of selected roads.
- 4. The West Africa Coast Areas Resilience Investment Project P162337** - financing agreement by IDA D2890, TF B4205 and TF A7132, with the overall amount of USD 15,14 million for 5 years, consist of to strengthen the resilience of targeted communities and areas in coastal western Africa.
- 5. The Social Protection and Skills Developments Project P163088** – STP - financing agreement by IDA D3760 with an amount of USD 10 million for 5 years, and IDA D7780, with an amount of USD 8 million, consist of to support the development of an effective national safety net system for poor households and inclusive and labor market relevant training Programs.
- 6. The Covid-19 Emergency Response Project** - financing agreement by IDA D6060, IDA D8130 and TF B5690, with the overall amount USD of USD 9.94 million., consist to support After the emergence of the new coronavirus, called COVID-19, in China and its spread outside China, on January 30, 2020, the Director-General of the WHO declared COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), based on the opinion of the International Emergency Committee and within the framework of the International Health Regulations (2005). This Declaration implies that all countries must increase their preparedness for detection and containment of cases, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, follow-up contacts and prevention of the spread of COVID Disease 19. The proposed project aims to reinforce and maintain the country capacity to: (i) limit the transmission of COVID 19 in the population including health workers; (ii) strengthen early detection notification and confirmation of cases of

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COVID-19; (iii) effectively manage isolation and case management for all suspected and confirmed cases of

COVID-19; (iv) support health promotion and community mobilization for the protection and prevention to COVID-19, and (v) reinforce the multisector coordination of partners to improve preparedness and response and to minimize the socio-economic impact of a potential outbreak of COVID-19.

7. The Girls Empowerment and Quality Education for All Project P16222 – STP financing agreement by IDA V3070, D7340 and TF B3318, with the overall amount of USD 17,2 Million for 5 years: consist of to equip girls with life skills and improve student learning outcomes for all.

8. The Digital São Tomé and Príncipe Project P177158- DSTP– financing agreement by IDA V4030 with an amount USD 2.5 million and IDA E0730 with an amount of USD 21 million, consist of to improve equity and sustainability of telecommunications services between the islands of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and strengthen data governance, data systems and statistical capacity. The Project will support activities to ensure inclusive and safe digital infrastructure, modernize digital government services support the next population and housing census, project management and implementation support.

9. The Social Protection COVID-19 Response and Recovery Project P178018 - financing agreement by IDA E0150, with an amount USD 18 million for 5 years, consist to strengthen social protection systems and expand the coverage of social protection programs.

The objectives of the audit are: (i) To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, thereby enabling the auditor to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework; (ii) To enable the auditors to express an independent professional opinion on the financial position of the Project, to assure that the Project funds have been used for their intended purposes and in accordance with the provisions of the Loan/Grant Agreement(s); and (iii) To report on the financial statements and communicate as required by the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) in accordance with the auditor's findings.

The external audit services will cover the following three (3) fiscal years:

- 1 January 2022 to December 2022
- 1 January 2023 to December 2023
- 1 January 2024 to December 2024

AFAP now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.



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The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the [*LCS-Least Cost Selection*] method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Interested consultants may obtain the Terms of Reference through the email provided below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **February 15, 2023 at 15:00** (local time) and should mention: **"FIRM TO AUDIT THE AFAP PROJECT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING IN DECEMBER 2022, DECEMBER 2023, AND IN DECEMBER 2024 IN SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE"**.

Attn: **Agência Fiduciária de Administração de Projectos (AFAP)**

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