



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Coordination and Development of PCB National Phase -Out Plan

FOR THE PROJECT

**Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Polychlorinated biphenyls
(PCBs) in the Republic of South Africa**

(GEF ID: 9579)

1. Purpose

To appoint a service provider for the development of a national phase out plan for environmentally sound management and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Republic of South Africa.

2. Introduction

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), is supporting a project in South Africa titled Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) and disposal of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and PCB-contaminated oil, equipment, and wastes in South Africa (SA PCB). The project's objective is to reduce and eliminate the use and releases of PCBs to the environment through development and implementation of the ESM and disposal of PCBs and PCB-contaminated oil, equipment and wastes in South Africa.

The project consists of the following three components:

- (i) Component 1: Institutional capacity building and awareness raising;
- (ii) Component 2: Final treatment and disposal of PCBs and PCB-contaminated oil, equipment, and wastes;
- (iii) Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation, and replication.

The project advances the operationalization of South Africa's National Implementation Plan (SA NIP), which has been formulated and updated through intensive stakeholder consultation. The SA NIP in itself seeks to position South Africa well to meet her obligations with regards to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) "hereinafter referred to as Stockholm Convention". As Party to the Stockholm Convention, South Africa has made strides in putting in place and implementing mechanisms to enable its compliance to this treaty. Such initiatives include the development of related policies, regulations, and standards, including the regulations to phase out the use of PCB materials and PCB containing materials (PCB Regulations) and a South African National Standard (SANS 290) on Mineral Insulating Oils: Management of Polychlorinated biphenyls.

The SA PCB project is thus part of the country's ongoing efforts to effect the ESM of PCBs and the compliance to the Convention. In terms of the Convention's requirements all equipment containing concentrations of PCBs above 0.05% (50ppm) must be phased out by 2025, and all resulting wastes containing PCBs must be subject to ESM for final disposal by 2028. This project therefore aims to facilitate the country's compliance to the provisions of the Convention and to assist the country to eliminate PCBs.

3. Background

PCBs are a class of synthetic organic chemicals that have low electrical conductivity and high resistance to thermal breakdown, oxidants, and other chemicals. They are widely used as dielectric fluids in electrical transformers and capacitors. PCBs are among the most toxic and persistent POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention. They are characterized by toxicity and environmental persistence, which is very similar to that of dioxins. Some of the adverse effects associated with exposure to PCBs include damage to the immune system, liver, skin, reproductive system, gastrointestinal tract and thyroid gland. Based on the re-assessment of scientific evidence, PCBs have recently been re-classified as class 1 carcinogens from the International Agency for Research of Cancer (IARC-WHO).

PCBs have been listed as a Group II hazardous substance in South Africa by the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act No.15 of 1973) and have been allocated a unique code in South Africa's Tariff Book. This allows them to be identified specifically in cases of import and/or export. They have also been placed on the Customs and Excise list of "Prohibited and Restricted" imports and exports, therefore any PCBs and PCB-contaminated oil and equipment entering the country are to be retained by the Customs Division, except for the purposes of environmentally sound treatment and disposal.

In ensuring that the PCBs are phased out in the country, on 10 July 2014, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) published the "Regulations to phase-out the use of PCB materials and PCB contaminated materials" (hereafter referred to as the "South Africa PCB Regulations") under section 44(1) (aA) and (aB) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The main objective of the regulations is to phase-out the use of PCBs in electrical equipment and dispose of the resulting wastes.

The development and implementation of the PCB phase out plan is necessary to provide the coordinated and comprehensive framework for the identification and environmentally sound management of PCBs in South Africa. A national PCB phase out plan would consolidate available inventory information and establish a national baseline of PCB containing and PCB contaminated equipment, including equipment that has not yet been reported by PCB owners. It would also provide structured approach for identification of data gaps.

The key stakeholders in South Africa that own electricity generating and transmission equipment which could contain PCBs and PCB-contaminated oil are:

- Eskom (the country's only utility company, which is responsible for bulk supply of electricity);
- municipalities licensed by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERS)

- mining,
- cement,
- steel,
- aluminum,
- chemical,
- petrochemical
- manufacturing,
- transportation.

4. Objectives of the Consultancy

The objectives of the consultancy, are to;

- Engage the key agencies and stakeholders responsible for sound management of PCB and ensure their roles and responsibilities are understood;
- Confirm a national inventory of all PCB contaminated equipment that are not available for immediate disposal by the project;
- Develop concrete actions by relevant entities in timely and coordinated manner to ensure that all confirmed contaminated equipment is either decommissioned and disposed of by the project; or is scheduled for replacement and disposal by the owner;
- Present the strategy and activities to be implemented in a set timeframe (a road map) by each entity, individually or in collaboration;
- consolidate available inventory information and establish a national baseline of PCB containing and PCB contaminated equipment, including equipment that has not yet been reported by PCB owners;
- Provide structured approach for identification of data gaps.

5. Scope of work and Activities to be undertaken by the Consultant

The services to be provided in pursuit of the project will include the following:

- (a) Develop the national phase-out plan which will cover all the contaminated equipment from the municipalities, state owned entities (SOEs) and private sector;
- (b) Engage all the key agencies and stakeholders responsible for sound management of PCBs and PCBs owners in South Africa to ensure their roles and responsibilities are understood and enforceable;
- (c) On the PCBs contaminated equipment (classified as level 5), not available for immediate disposal by the project, the consultant must;
 - engage and negotiate with the PCBs owners for the release of the equipment;
 - confirm and quantify national inventory of all PCBs, and
 - outline the financial resources required to eliminate.
- (d) Develop concrete action plan by relevant entities in timely and coordinated manner

- to ensure that all confirmed contaminated equipment is either decommissioned and disposed of by the project; or is scheduled for replacement and disposal by the owner;
- (e) Develop and present the strategy and activities to be implemented in a set timeframe (a road map) by each entity, individually or in collaboration.

6. Expected Deliverables and Reporting

The following are expected deliverables:

1. Detailed PCB phase-out plan for South Africa;
2. Report on the engagement of all the key agencies and stakeholders responsible for sound management of PCB and PCB owners in South Africa to ensure their roles and responsibilities in this respect are understood and enforceable;
3. Confirmed detailed quantity and budget for the national inventory of all PCB contaminated equipment that is not available for immediate disposal by the project;
4. Developed concrete actions by relevant entities in timely and coordinated manner to ensure that all confirmed contaminated equipment is either decommissioned and disposed of by the project; or is scheduled for replacement and disposal by the owner;
5. Developed and presented strategy and activities to be implemented in a set timeframe (a road map) by each entity, individually or in collaboration for the phase-out plan.

The Consultant shall submit a written report on the progress of the implementation of the activities to the Africa Institute on a monthly basis and be available for presentation to the project management unit (PMU) meetings upon request. The final deliverables must be submitted by the end of May 2027.

6. Time Frame

6.1 The project must be completed within six (6) months after the signing of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) by both parties.

7. Costing/ Budget

The comprehensive budget inclusive of all disbursement costs, expenses and VAT should be submitted separately from the technical proposal.

8. Qualifications and Experience

The following are key attributes required for the consultancy. The criteria should apply to the project leader and team members responsible for the project implementation.

- 1) A minimum master's degree in either chemistry, environmental management or any other relevant field. Higher qualifications will be an added advantage;
- 2) 5 years' experience in working with POPs/PCBs/electrical transformers related field;
- 3) The team leader and team members should have experience and demonstrable capacity to draft documents.
- 4) Fluent in English with strong oral and written communication skills;
- 5) fluent in South African local languages;
- 6) Full understanding of South Africa's landscape and exposure to, and understanding of, its multicultural environment;
- 7) Proficient in commonly used computer programmes and especially in MS Office suite;
- 8) Demonstrate good interpersonal skills;
- 9) Must have sufficient and adequate resources (such as vehicles, and other necessary equipment) or a plan to acquire these to perform the assignment seamlessly, timely and in full.

9. Mandatory requirements and documentation

To accompany the proposal (for each Bid submitted) shall be the following:

- 1) A detailed proposal, which should include the resourcing plan, with clear timelines for undertaking the work.
- 2) A detailed PCBs phase out plan, which should include the resourcing plan, for the phase-out of the PCBs in South Africa.
- 3) A cover letter indicating the bidder's suitability for the job, supported by a comprehensive curriculum vitae/company profile, copies of qualifications, proposed approach and work plan.
- 4) The pricing structure, with all the necessary details. This should be transparent and inclusive and be submitted separately and properly marked.
- 5) , duration of the project, and confirmation of the successfully completed project.

The evaluation of Bids can only be done on the basis of information required by the Africa Institute and that provided by the bidder. Bidders failing to meet all the mandatory requirements shall automatically be disqualified.

10. Bids Evaluation

a. Rating Scale

In evaluating the proposals, the following rating scale shall be used for each evaluation criterion.

Outcome	Non-compliant	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
Rating/score	0	1	2	3	4	5

b. Evaluation Criteria and Weighting

	valuation criteria	Sub-criteria evaluated	Weight (%)	Aggregate weight for the evaluation criteria
Functionality	PCB Phase out plan	Proposed methodology and approach to undertaking phase out plan.	20	20
		Work plan: Clarity, comprehensiveness and practicality	20	
		Resourcing plan: Feasibility and fit-for-purpose.	10	
	Track Record	Demonstrated relevant track record, including the provision of a list of contactable references	10	10
	Qualifications	Meeting all required minimum qualifications	10	10
	Knowledge the country.	Demonstrable knowledge of the country, and its multicultural environment, for which the Bid has been submitted	10	10
Functionality total				80
Pricing Structure				20
Pricing Structure total				20

The Bid must score a minimum of 2.7 weighted average in functionality to be

evaluated further on price. Bids that do not meet this minimum threshold will not be evaluated further on other criteria.

11. Enquiries and Details of where Proposals are to be submitted

The Bids (with correct Bid No.) should be packaged in two envelopes (marked functionality and Pricing) and marked for the attention of the Executive Director: Africa Institute for Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Other Wastes; and should be submitted using either of the following;

Physical delivery	By post	By e-mail
Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road Arcadia, Pretoria	Environment House Private Bag X447, Pretoria 0001, South Africa	Functionality and pricing proposal should be sent separately, with e-mail subject giving indication of what the proposal is for. Email address: NMasha@dfpe.gov.za

Enquiries should be sent by e-mail to Ms Bianca H Dlamini on: BHDlamini@dfpe.gov.za. We endeavor to respond to all e-mail enquiries within 48 hours. Enquiries submitted by post may take longer.

12. Closing Date

The closing date for applications is 23 October 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.