

CALL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION (ST&I) EXPERTS

ST&I Helpdesk – UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) West Africa Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and UNESCO, through the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Helpdesk of the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) West Africa Office, invite applications from qualified professionals to join a regional pool of ST&I experts supporting demand-led technical assistance across West Africa.

The ST&I Helpdesk is established under the Sankore Project to strengthen science, technology, and innovation systems by providing timely, evidence-based support to governments, development partners, research institutions, and innovation actors.

Purpose of the Call

This call aims to identify experienced ST&I professionals to form an Expert Network that will support the Helpdesk's operations through rapid advisory services, technical reviews, and knowledge exchange activities across the West African region.

Selected experts will be engaged on a flexible, task-based basis in response to specific Helpdesk requests.

Scope of Engagement

Experts may be called upon to:

- Respond to ST&I Helpdesk requests within agreed timelines (typically within 48 hours)
- Provide high-quality technical and evidence-based advisory support
- Participate in peer review and quality assurance processes
- Contribute to thematic briefs, policy notes, and technical guidance
- Engage in virtual consultations, webinars, and workshops
- Maintain confidentiality and adhere to data protection and ethical standards

Areas of Expertise

Applications are welcome from professionals with expertise in one or more of the following areas, particularly within the West African context:

- ST&I Policy and Governance
- Innovation Management
- Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer
- Data Science and Digital Infrastructure
- Environmental Science & Climate Innovation
- Agricultural Technologies & Food Systems
- Health Innovation & Life Sciences
- Public Policy Analysis and Evidence Synthesis Development
- Legal, Regulatory, and Ethical Frameworks for STI
- Risk Assessment, Foresight, and Scenario Analysis
- Knowledge Management and Science Communication
- Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Natural Resource Management
- Institutional Capacity Development and Reform
- Economic Analysis and Development Finance
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)
- Health Systems, One Health, and Environmental Health
- Education Systems, Skills, and Human Capital Development
- Digital Innovation and Emerging Technologies
- Geospatial Analysis and Earth Observation
- Data Systems, Statistics, and Data Science
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL)
- Energy Systems, Transitions, and Low-Carbon
- Water Resources, Hydrology, and Environmental Modelling

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants should have:

- A minimum of five (5) years' professional experience in an ST&I-related field
- Demonstrated experience in research, advisory, or policy engagement
- Strong analytical, communication, and report-writing skills
- Experience working in or with institutions in West Africa
- Ability to deliver quality outputs within short timelines

How to Apply

Interested experts are invited to apply by completing the online application form and uploading the required documents.

Click on this link to apply:

<https://forms.gle/nHVszHLahdAWTKXZ7>

Submission Deadline: 15 February

For enquiries, please contact:

STIhelpdesk@ceh.ac.uk

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further engagement and onboarding.

Engagement Terms

- Experts will be engaged on a non-exclusive, task-based basis
- Remuneration will be assignment-specific and subject to scope and funding availability
- A formal agreement, including confidentiality provisions, will govern all engagements

Why Join the ST&I Helpdesk Expert Network?

- Contribute to strengthening ST&I systems across West Africa
- Engage with governments, development partners, and research institutions
- Gain regional visibility as an ST&I expert
- Support impactful, policy-relevant initiatives