Centre for Environment Justice and Development

Call for Proposals and Terms of Reference (ToR)

Consultancy: Mapping of Standards, Gap Analysis and Best-Practice Assessment on Chemicals of Concern in Priority Plastic Products in Tanzania

Implemented by: Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD), Kenya, in partnership with AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA), Tanzania

1. Background and context

Plastic products contain chemical additives, some of which are hazardous to human health and the environment. Chemicals of concern (COC) include plasticizers such as phthalates, brominated flame retardants, bisphenols, ultraviolet (UV) stabilizers, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and heavy metals in pigments and colorants. These chemicals can be released during use, disposal and recycling, exposing consumers and workers and contaminating food, water and the environment. Their presence in plastic waste also restricts the safe use of recycled plastics and undermines circularity.

Standards that set limits on COC in plastic products are an important regulatory tool for reducing these risks. The priority products for this assignment are toys and food-contact plastics.

2. About the project

CEJAD, a public-interest organization promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, is implementing a project to strengthen policy frameworks and support regulatory measures to phase out hazardous chemicals in plastics and promote environmentally sound recycling in East Africa. The project is part of the pilot project Programme of the Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste (PWP), established under decision BC-14/13.

The project supports the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to review national standards and address regulatory gaps on COC in plastic products. Project activities include the mapping of standards, gap analysis and best-practice assessment in Kenya and Tanzania, followed by the preparation of roadmaps for the development or revision of standards.

In Kenya, the mapping has been completed and work to strengthen standards is ongoing. In Tanzania, the mapping has not yet been undertaken. In this regard, CEJAD and AGENDA therefore seek to engage a consultant to undertake the mapping exercise in Tanzania and to provide technical input towards the review of standards. The assignment will culminate in a national stakeholder workshop on the 14th and 15th December 2026 to validate the findings and agree on a roadmap for the review of standards on COC in plastic products in Tanzania.

The consultant's report will support TBS, other regulatory bodies and stakeholders in developing strategies for safer alternatives, compliance and enforcement in Tanzania.

3. Objectives of the consultancy

The overall objective of the consultancy is to map existing standards and related controls on chemicals of concern in priority plastic products in Tanzania, identify gaps against international best practice, and generate recommendations for the review or development of standards.

Specifically, the consultant will:

1. Map national (Tanzanian), regional (EAC) and international standards and related controls relevant to COC in the priority plastic products.

2. Identify gaps in product coverage, chemical limits, testing capacity, conformity assessment and enforcement.
3. Document international and regional best practices that Tanzania could adopt or adapt.
4. Recommend priority products and standards for review or development and propose a roadmap for their review.

4. Scope of work and tasks

The assignment will map standards, identify gaps and document best practices relating to chemicals of concern in the following priority plastic products:

1. Toys (exposure risks to children)

2. Food-contact plastics (packaging and containers)

A. Mapping of standards and related controls

- Compile an inventory of Tanzanian standards (TZS) relevant to the priority products, indicating for each whether it is mandatory or voluntary, its date of last review, the COC it covers, chemical limits it sets and the test methods it references.
- Map East African Standards (EAS) adopted in Tanzania and relevant international standards and regulations to be used as benchmarks (ISO, IEC, EN and Codex), for example ISO 8124 and EN 71 for toys, and Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic food-contact materials.
- Map standards and specifications for recycled plastics and products with recycled content, where these exist.
- Map related legal and regulatory instruments that control COC in plastics, including laws and regulations on chemicals management, environmental management, food safety and plastics, as well as Tanzania's obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions.
- Identify the institutions responsible for standards setting, conformity assessment, market surveillance, import control and enforcement (for example TBS, the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), and the TBS technical committees relevant to the priority products.
- Map available testing capacity for COC in plastics, including laboratories, their accreditation status, and the chemicals and test methods they cover.

B. Gap analysis

- Compare the mapped standards against the international benchmarks, and identify products with no standard, standards with no chemical limits, standards with outdated or less stringent limits, and voluntary standards that may need to be made mandatory.
- Assess gaps in testing capacity, conformity assessment, import control and enforcement.
- Assess gaps in coordination between the institutions involved.
- Categorise and rank the gaps identified, considering exposure risk, the market presence of the products and the feasibility of action.

C. Best-practice assessment

- Document best practices from the European Union (REACH, EU toy safety legislation and the food-contact plastics regulation), other jurisdictions and the EAC.
- Identify practical approaches suited to Tanzania's context, such as product-based limits, substance-based restrictions, adoption of existing international standards, labelling and extended producer responsibility (EPR).

D. Stakeholder consultations

- Conduct targeted interviews or consultations with TBS, other regulators, laboratories, manufacturers and importers, recyclers, academia and civil society organisations.
- Document the stakeholders consulted and summarize their views.

E. Recommendations and roadmap

- Recommend priority products and standards for review or development, based on clear and transparent prioritisation criteria.
- Prepare a draft roadmap for the review of standards, indicating for each priority standard the recommended action (adopt, revise or develop), the responsible institution or technical committee, and an indicative timeframe.

F. Workshop support

- Prepare a summary of key findings and the draft roadmap for presentation at the national stakeholder workshop.
- Incorporate stakeholder feedback into the final report.

5. Methodology

The consultant will propose a detailed methodology in the technical proposal. This is expected to include:

- A desk review of national, regional and international standards, laws, policies and literature.
- Key informant interviews and consultations with stakeholders, conducted in person in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma and remotely where necessary.
- A standards mapping matrix (product, standard, mandatory or voluntary status, COC covered, limits, test method, international benchmark and gap), to be submitted as an annex to the report.
- A comparative analysis against international benchmarks.

6. Expected deliverables

1. **Inception report:** detailed methodology, workplan and timeline.
2. **Draft mapping and gap analysis report:** covering Tasks A–E, including the standards mapping matrix (annex), the gaps identified, the best practices documented, a summary of the stakeholder consultations, and the recommended priority standards and draft roadmap.
3. **Workshop presentation and brief:** a presentation and a short brief summarizing the key findings and the draft roadmap.

4. **Final report:** the draft report revised to address comments from CEJAD, AGENDA and TBS and feedback from the national workshop.

7. Timeframe

The assignment will require 20 working days

Date	Activity
9th November 2026	Call for proposals issued
16th November 2026	Deadline for proposals
18th November 2026	Contract signed and assignment starts
23rd November 2026	Inception report submitted
4th December 2026	Draft mapping and gap analysis report submitted
14th & 15th December 2026	Findings presented at the national workshop
18th December 2026	Final report submitted

8. Payment schedule

- 20% upon approval of the inception report.
- 40% upon acceptance of the draft report.
- 40% upon approval of the final report.

9. Reporting and supervision

The consultant will report to CEJAD and work closely with AGENDA, which will coordinate in-country logistics and stakeholder introductions. The consultant will also liaise with TBS, and the Vice President's office- Department of Environment (VPO-DoE) throughout the assignment.

10. Consultant qualifications

The consultant may be based in Tanzania or Kenya, with the following qualifications:

1. An advanced degree in chemistry, environmental science, toxicology, polymer science, or a related field.
2. At least five years' experience in chemicals management, standards development, product safety or plastics regulation.
3. Sound knowledge of Tanzania's standards and regulatory system, including TBS processes and technical committees.
4. Knowledge of relevant international instruments and standards (the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions, REACH, ISO and EAC standards, and WHO/FAO guidelines).
5. Strong stakeholder engagement, analysis and report-writing skills.

11. Application process

Interested consultants should submit:

1. A technical proposal demonstrating an understanding of the assignment and setting out the proposed approach, methodology and workplan.
2. Evidence of similar assignments, with contact details of at least two referees.
3. CV of the consultant and team members.
4. A financial proposal detailing professional fees and any travel and related costs.

Proposals should be addressed to the Executive Director, CEJAD, and submitted by email on or before **Friday, 13th November 2026**, to info@cejadkenya.org, with copies to cejadkenya@gmail.com and Agenda Tanzania at agenda@agendatz.org or agenda.environment1997@gmail.com.