I. About the Africa Trade Fund
The Africa Trade Fund (AfTra) has been set up in response to Africa’s need for greater integration into regional and global trading systems, which requires a comprehensive approach involving actions at the firm, country and regional levels. The main objective of AfTra is to boost trade and trade-related activities in the African region.

II. Areas of Focus / Sub-Sectors
The interventions of the Fund focus on the following pillars:

1. Pillar I: Improving trade facilitation in RMCs and RECs. AfTra leverages technical assistance to support implementation of RMCs and RECs Trade Action Plans with emphasis on the modernization of customs systems and enhancement of border management;

2. Pillar II: Product and Marketing Development. This pillar primarily includes improving product quality (in line with international standards) and enhancing market access. The focus is on raising the capacities of agricultural producers particularly their ability meet sanitary and phytosanitary requirements; and

3. Pillar III: Strengthening country and regional trade-related institutions and systems. This pillar aims to build strong trade-related institutions with knowledgeable staff to support trade facilitations reforms.

Particular attention will be paid to gender issues, especially ensuring women’s equal access to resources and capacity building to enhance their participation in trade. Attention will also be paid on the extent to which projects take into consideration (and address) the environmental dimensions of trade-related activities.

III. Purpose of this call for proposals
The main purpose of this call for proposals is to facilitate the selection and financing (through grants) of project proposals that are aligned to AfTra.
IV. Types of Activities to be funded from AfTra Grants:

- Organization of or participation in national or regional level forums (meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops) to facilitate dialogue and consensus building;
- Knowledge, economic and sector work (baseline studies, environmental and gender related studies, studies to improve project quality, and publications);
- Capacity development and technical assistance, training, study tours (formal attachments and training etc.);
- Extension services, management of trade information and market intelligence systems (data and information collection, analysis and dissemination);
- Institutional capacity development (provision and refurbishing of software and hardware equipment to modernize customs or port clearing facilities; acquisition of laboratory and testing equipment; computers and other IT equipment);
- Strategic capital investment programs (establishment of small structures or refurbishment of buildings especially one-stop border posts);

V. Target Beneficiaries

- Regional Member Countries;
- Bank organizational units (sector and regional departments as well as field offices);
- The African Union, Regional Economic Communities, other relevant regional economic groupings;
- Networks of African government institutions located in Africa;
- African (national or central) government institutions involved in trade development;
- Private sector and Civil Society organizations located in Africa.

VI. Other Project Requirements

- **Location:** the projects will be implemented in African countries or regions;
- **Duration:** While there is no specific duration limit, it is expected that selected projects will be launched during the next 12 months and implemented within 3 years; and
- **Budget:** The anticipated support per project will normally be less than one million dollars ($1 million) but budgets of up $2 million can also be considered, especially where co-financing from applicant or other donors is involved. There is no minimum amount.

VII. Application Procedures

- Interested applicants are invited to download the Application Form to fill it and to submit it to the Africa Trade Fund;
- Questions for clarifications may be sent via email at ONRI2_Secretariat@afdb.org with subject: Africa Trade Fund;
• Applications should also be submitted electronically to ONRI2_Secretariat@afdb.org with subject: AfTra Application Form;
• Proposals can be submitted in either French or English;
• Although applications are open and accepted throughout the year, the deadline for submission of application forms for this special Call for Proposals is 20th November 2013.

VIII. Evaluation of Application Forms and Way Forward

Review and Evaluation of Project Proposals

Submitted applications will be preliminarily reviewed for eligibility with respect to the objectives and priorities of the Africa Trade Fund. Where necessary, shortlisted institutions will be contacted and requested to develop a full appraisal report. AfTra reserves the right to reject applications that are found “non-eligible.”

Applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process by the end of the year.