

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research Assistant for the Global Land Outlook (GLO)

Consultancy reference number: **CCD/16/ERPA/19**

BACKGROUND

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and land degradation, and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected countries around the world through effective action at all levels. This is supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

The Global Land Outlook (GLO) is the UNCCD's new flagship publication to be published every 4 years with the 1st edition expected in 2017. It will be a strategic assessment providing a transformative vision for land management practice, policy and planning at global and national scales. The digital concept note for the GLO is available at:

<https://global-land-outlook.squarespace.com/home/#intro>

CONSULTANT'S TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

Under the overall supervision of the coordinator of the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit of the UNCCD and the direct supervision of an assigned Officer, the consultant will backstop the GLO writing and production team by providing desk reviews, annotated bibliographies, graphic elements and analytical synthesis of the main topics to be covered in the 1st edition of the GLO. This will include but not be limited to:

- A compilation of keywords relevant to the chapters, annexes, issues and themes of the 1st edition of the GLO including the working papers series
- A comprehensive search and meta-analysis of recent (2005-2016) peer-reviewed and gray literature using advanced keyword searches
- A presentation of search results in annotated bibliographic format that provides a concise analytical synthesis of the literature with the aim of providing draft text elements for consideration by the GLO writing team
- The collection and formatting of case studies, project and programme experiences, and the lessons learned that support the key messages of the GLO
- The identification, procurement of, and permission to use high-resolution graphic elements, including photos, diagrams, schematics, tables, charts, graphs, and other powerful visual representations of the issues, themes and scenarios of the GLO

CONTRACTUAL TERMS

- The consultancy will ideally be based at UNCCD offices in Bonn, Germany initially for three months, subject to extension, starting from 15 June 2016;
- The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the initial contract period at the beginning of the assignment, which will be discussed and agreed with the supervisors at the UNCCD.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A Master's or PhD degree in land use planning, natural resource management or any related field relevant for the consultancy;
- Research experience and publishing with an emphasis on environmental or natural resource management;
- Ability to communicate effectively in English with demonstrated writing skills is a must; and
- Experience in transdisciplinary work and access to a university library consortium is a plus.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to **staffing@unccd.int**. This should include a CV, specifying the position **CCD/16/ERPA/19** in the subject line, and a cover letter with a brief work plan and expectations for monthly remuneration on a full time basis.

The deadline for applications is 20 May 2016. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered. No telephone calls will be returned. Please address your application as indicated above and do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat of the UNCCD.

Date of issuance: 19 April 2016