



United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification



THE GLOBAL
MECHANISM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Technical support to and backstopping of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme

Consultancy reference number: CCD/16/GM/46

Background

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. In the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD (2008-2018) Parties to the Convention further specified their goals: "to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability".

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to "protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss". As main expected results it defines under target 15.3 to "combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world" by 2030.

In October 2015, the 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD, organized in Ankara, Turkey, agreed to:

- Define Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and endorse the concept as a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD;
- Invite country Parties to formulate national voluntary targets to achieve LDN and to integrate LDN targets into UNCCD National Action Programmes;
- Establish LDN partnerships recognizing the unique role of UNCCD in addressing target 15.3 and the contributions required from other bodies, agencies and Conventions to achieve LDN.



The Global Mechanism is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. As the operational arm of the convention, the Global Mechanism supports countries to translate the Convention into action and to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality at the national level.

The Global Mechanism provides advisory services, promotes partnerships and demonstrates innovations at the country level. It aspires to be a trusted international partner that translates cutting-edge knowledge into tailored, country-level action. As scale and impact can only be achieved through partnerships - knowledge partnerships, implementation partnerships, and funding partnerships – the Global Mechanism puts a particular emphasis on strategic partnerships.

The Global Mechanism is currently working on three flagship initiatives:

1. *The Great Green Wall*: The Global Mechanism is one of the many partners of the Great Green Wall, a major African-led initiative with the bold ambition to restore the productivity and vitality of the Sahel region, whilst 'growing solutions' to the Continent's most urgent development challenges. An increasing number of migrants moving to Europe are from sub-Saharan Africa and in particular the Sahel. There is an urgent need to create 'green jobs' along the Great Green Wall that help boost sustainable agricultural production, restore productive community assets and implement key measures against natural disasters. A more sustainable, food secure and climate resilient Sahel will help slow the rural exodus and subsequent migration to Europe.
2. *The Land Degradation Neutrality Fund*: In order to achieve LDN, substantial amounts of private sector resources need to be mobilized. The Land Degradation Neutrality Fund aims at channeling resources from impact investors and institutional investors into projects contributing to land degradation neutrality – from sustainable agriculture to large-scale rehabilitation of degraded land. Development of this fund is spearheaded by the Global Mechanism, in collaboration with a private sector fund-structuring partner. It is a public-private partnership in the making. The Fund is expected to be launched by December 2016.
3. *Land Degradation Neutrality target setting program*: The objective of the LDN target setting program (TSP) is to help countries in establishing national voluntary targets for LDN and identify transformative projects to achieve these targets.

The above-mentioned flagship activities are complemented by work on two themes:

A. Transformative LDN projects: Support is provided to countries to develop land-based climate action projects and to tap into climate financing for these projects. As sound "triple bottom line" projects to achieve LDN are a major bottleneck, the Global Mechanism is also spearheading the development of an intensive training program on how to design transformative LDN projects.



B. Bringing LDN into the economic mainstream at country level: Achieving LDN at country level requires major policy and resource allocation decisions. In order to support decision making, the Global Mechanism engages in economic valuation of LDN projects and public policy choices and supporting countries in setting up innovative financial mechanisms for forest and landscape restoration.

The company selected will provide technical support and backstopping to the GM for the implementation of the LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP)¹.

ASSIGNMENT

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the GM, the direct supervision of the GM Officer in charge of the LDN TSP and in close cooperation with GM and UNCCD Secretariat colleagues, the assigned company staff will:

1. Support the overall coordination and management of the GM LDN TSP;
2. Provide technical advice and operational support for the implementation of the LDN TSP;
3. Provide technical guidance to the regional and national experts recruited by the LDN TSP;
4. Provide technical backstopping to UNCCD Secretariat and GM officers involved in LDN TSP implementation;
5. Support the communication and outreach activities of the LDN TSP;
6. Support the organization of and participate in workshops organized by the LDN TSP;
7. Represent the GM in international meetings and conferences;
8. Support to the engagement of relevant stakeholders in the national LDN target setting process;
9. Provide backstopping to national counterparts on the target setting approach and methodology at country level:
 - a. Facilitation of Government leadership and stakeholder engagement in the LDN target setting process
 - b. Establishment of LDN baselines, including the assessment of trends in land degradation, the identification of possible LDN hot spots and the assessment of drivers of land degradation;
 - c. Definition of LDN targets and associated measures;
 - d. Mainstreaming of LDN in selected policies and commitments
 - e. Mapping of LDN transformative projects/programmes and innovative finance
10. Support the establishment of strategic partnerships related to the LDN target setting process;
11. Technical backstopping and quality control related to the processing of data related to LDN indicators (land cover, land productivity (metric: net primary

¹ <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/supporting-countries-set-land-degradation-neutrality-targets>



- productivity (NPP), carbon stocks above and below ground (metric: soil organic carbon (SOC), including
- a. Conversion of global land cover data (e.g. ESA-CCI LC Map data sets) into agreed land cover categories, extraction of baseline values and assessment of land cover changes in the period 2000-2010;
 - b. Extraction of baseline values and assessment of land productivity changes disaggregated by land cover categories in the period 2000-2010 from NDVI-based products;
 - c. Extraction of baseline values of soil organic carbon disaggregated by land cover categories from accessible global datasets;
12. Support the acquisition, processing, and transfer to countries of remote sensing data related to LDN indicators.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Specific deliverables will be agreed based on monthly work plans based on the overall work plan of the LDN TSP.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Evidence of a minimum of 10 years working experience related to natural resource management (NRM);
- Extensive knowledge on NRM monitoring, including methodologies on monitoring and assessing land use change, land productivity and soil organic carbon;
- Demonstrated technical knowledge of GIS and remote sensing applied to natural resources monitoring and assessment at (sub)national level;
- Profound knowledge on project management and monitoring, including result based management and result based budgeting;
- Extensive knowledge on the UNCCD or related Conventions processes;
- Experience working with UNCCD country Parties and in different regions an asset;
- Provision of service by English-speaking staff, with solid command of French and Spanish(proven by declaration);
- Result oriented and proven ability to produce deliverables under strict deadlines and employ high level of discipline and professionalism.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 25% upon signing of contract;
- 50% upon approval of interim performance report by 31 May 2017;
- 25% upon completion of the entire assignment and approval of final performance report by 31 December 2017.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The estimated time required for the entire assignment is up to 210 days, to be deployed between 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2017.
- Any travel and related costs will be settled separately as per UN rules and regulations
- Evaluation of consultancy proposal will be based on both technical and financial proposal.
- Methodologies and products developed and delivered through this consultancy shall remain the exclusive property of the Global Mechanism and/or the UNCCD secretariat, and shall not be divulged and/or used without prior written authorization.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Applications, including technical and financial proposals, CV of experts involved in the assignment and examples of conducting similar assignments, should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int, specifying the position: **CCD/16/GM/46 – Technical support to and backstopping of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme.**

The deadline for applications is **01 August 2016**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications cannot be acknowledged individually. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat or GM. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within two months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Dated of issuance: 26 July 2016