

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To Produce a publication on land rights in collaboration with the UNCCD CSO panel

Consultancy reference number: CCD/16/ERPA/63

Background

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking the environment, poverty and development to sustainable land management areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought. Its objective is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels.

Decision 5/COP.9 established a UNCCD civil society panel to facilitate the involvement of the CSOs within the convention process including their participation in the sessions and meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. Decisions 5/COP.10, 5/COP.11 and 5/COP.12 enlarged the configuration of the panel and provided the tools for the panel to deliver the mandate entrusted.

The UNCCD CSO panel has decided to include among its priorities for the present biennium the issue of Land Rights. Building upon the successful high level ministerial dialogue with the civil society organizations during the last session of the COP held in Ankara, the members of the panel feel the increasing need to address one of the main concerns of communities living in areas affected by Desertification Land Degradation and Drought. Furthermore, the panel has underlined a set of priorities that need to be considered in order to achieve the land degradation neutrality target.

- Securing of land rights as a prerequisite to achieving land degradation neutrality;
- Securing of land tenure systems for the lands through locally appropriate, participatory and multi-stakeholder processes that take into account the dynamic nature of the land ecology as well as the dynamic nature of the multiple land uses in vulnerable communities;
- Provision of government recognition of the ownership and control of land by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Recognition of the collective rights of land users, especially with regard to the livelihoods of pastoralists, indigenous peoples and women, as a first step to supporting community-based management systems to prevent degradation and restore land;
- Granting of equitable access and rights to land to women and men, especially vulnerable and indigenous peoples, in order to eradicate poverty;
- Tackling of the weak governance and the corruption endemic of the land governance system, which in many countries favour the status quo and harm the interests of poor people;
- Democratization and securing of land rights so as to ensure the continued sustainable management of natural resources and sustain the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Restoration of degraded lands that are used by land-insecure communities in ways that prevent land grabbing and instead improve tenure security, especially for indigenous peoples;
- Development of legal principles and guidelines for ensuring social protection, food security, security of indigenous peoples and local communities, land tenure, ecological integrity, and transparency and accountability in order to overcome social and historical inequities.

CONSULTANT'S TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

Insecure land tenure and rights to natural resources stands as a formidable barrier to the achievement of the land degradation neutrality target. Furthermore, it put at risk the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations in areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.

Under the overall supervision of the UNCCD CSO panel and the direct supervision of the assigned officer within the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit of the UNCCD, the consultant will prepare a publication on land rights in the context of the UNCCD to be used as basis for raising awareness of policy makers and public at large.

The 20-24 pages publication should include sections that contain information, stories, data on the following topics identified by the CSO panel:

- Land rights and land degradation neutrality
- Land rights, productivity and social entrepreneurship
- Climate change and land rights: adaptation and mitigation perspectives
- Land rights and gender: women empowerment in rural areas
- Land rights, land grabbing, conflicts and security
- Impacts of international trade and investment on land rights
- Ownership of and access to land by indigenous people, women, youth (case studies)
- How to build a new partnership on land rights different users and stakeholders, including the Role of civil society in facilitating land tenure security
- Call to Parties for committing themselves to give access to and protect ownership of land of vulnerable communities
- Monitoring of land right and legislations

The tasks of the consultant will include the organization of a procedure for interacting with the members of the CSO panel, particularly with the regional representatives in order to collect information and perspectives, validate the information, among others.

The deliverable will be a publication to be used by the civil society community to raise awareness and serve as the first step for the discussions at COP13.

CONTRACTUAL TERMS

- The consultancy will be carried out over two months, starting from 9 January 2017;
- The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the entire contract period at the beginning of the assignment, which will be discussed and agreed with the panel at the UNCCD.
- Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and the task

QUALIFICATIONS

- A Master's or PhD degree in law, spatial/regional planning, geography, natural resources, economics, or any related field relevant for the consultancy;
- Research experience or publishing with an emphasis on environmental management;
- Experience in transdisciplinary work;
- Ability to communicate effectively in English and French with demonstrated writing skills.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int. This should include UN Personal history form or CV, specifying the position **CCD/16/ERPA/63** in the subject line, and a cover letter with a brief work plan and expectations for remuneration.

The deadline for applications is 27 December 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.

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