

## **CONSULTANCY**

### **STUDY ON THE SUBSET OF IMPACT INDICATORS REQUIRED FOR REPORTING IN 2012**

#### **Terms of reference for two consultants**

The objective of the UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification around the world, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.

The functions of the secretariat are, among others, to make arrangements for sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies. In addition the secretariat also provides assistance to Parties in implementing the Convention.

The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) was established under Article 24 of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the COP. The role of the Committee is to provide the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought to ensure that its decisions are based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

As per decision 3/COP8, the CST was requested to advise COP 9 on how best to measure progress on the achievement of strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy).

The CST Bureau therefore developed and implemented a consultative process that led to the identification of a set of eleven impact indicators.

COP 9 decided to provisionally accept the recommended set of 11 impact indicators. The following subset of two impact indicators was identified as the minimum required for reporting by affected countries beginning in 2012:

- i) Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line;
- ii) Land cover status.

The remaining impact indicators, while recommended, were considered optional for inclusion in reports by affected countries and will be subject to a further process of refinement.

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The objectives of the assignment are:

- To identify and recommend standardized methodologies for collecting, processing, monitoring and reporting the relevant data needed to effectively use the subset of impact indicators;
- To identify the available sources of data and information required to implement the sub-set of impact indicators;
- To elaborate harmonized scientific approaches to develop baselines and targets for the subset of impact indicators;
- To prepare a glossary of terms and definitions that should accompany the subset of impact indicators in order to ensure that end users all understand the rationale and implement impact indicators following the same understanding.

## **Specific tasks and deliverables**

Activities to be undertaken in close collaboration by the two consultants:

- Identification of a suitable common format for a scientifically rigorous description of the indicators;
- Development of proposals on a harmonized methodology for defining affected areas at the national and global level, taking into account the preliminary reviewed done by the group of experts in charge of the selection of the minimum set of impact indicators<sup>1</sup>;
- Proposal on standardized methodologies to be applied in order to identify baseline and target;
- Preparation of a sample format for reporting guidelines.

Each consultant will undertake the following activities focusing his/her attention on the impact indicator he/she is responsible for:

- In depth literature review
- Refinement of the proposal on standardized methodologies for data collection, processing, monitoring and reporting (including reporting of the uncertainties and sensitivities) to implement the indicator at national and at the global levels.
- Provision of information on available sources of data required to implement the indicator
- Preparation of a glossary of terms and definitions that should accompany the subset of impact indicators in order to ensure that end users all understand the rationale and implement impact indicators following the same understanding.

The consultants are expected to fulfill the following deliverables:

- Draft report to be tabled to a meeting with relevant institutions and/or agencies that could provide information and data required to implement the sub-set of impact indicators tentatively on April 2010;
- Final report integrating relevant outcomes of the meeting by 1 June 2010.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

The consultant in charge of the study on the indicator “Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line” should have an advance academic degree in economics or social sciences and related disciplines with at least five years of relevant experience.

The consultant in charge of the study on the indicator “Land cover status” should have an advance academic degree in environmental sciences and related disciplines with at least five years of relevant experience.

Both consultants should have specific experience in identifying and applying sustainable development indicators; full command of oral and written English; familiarity with UNCCD objectives and procedures as an asset.

## **CONTRACTUAL TERMS**

The contract will be issued for the period 1 March 2010 – to – 1 June 2010. Consultants are requested to undertake one mission to the UNCCD headquarter.

**The detailed Terms of References for this consultancy can be downloaded at the [http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/docs/100201\\_ToR.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/docs/100201_ToR.pdf)**

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<sup>1</sup> [Consultancy report on impact indicators](#)