

CONSULTANCY

ASSESSMENT OF THE ORGANISATION OF UNCCD 1ST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The objective of this Convention 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.

In decision 13/COP.8, the COP 8 decided that each future ordinary session of the CST should be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the CST Bureau in consultation with a lead institution/consortium which was qualified in, and had expertise in, the relevant thematic topic selected by the COP. This would enable the international scientific community to bring wider scientific and technological expertise to the CST and the Convention process.

The UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference was co-organized by the CST Bureau and the selected Dryland Science for Development (DSD) consortium on the following theme: "Biophysical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation to support decision-making in land and water management".

The present evaluation is based on the Decision 16/COP.9 requesting the secretariat to organise an in-depth assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference in consultation with regional groups.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The aim is to assess the preparation process, the format, and the outcome of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, and to make recommendations for the preparation of the next scientific conference. The evaluation will:

- Assess the adequacy of the process followed to select the consortium to achieve the objectives of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference;
- Assess the adequacy of the format adopted and the preparation process to achieve the objectives of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference;
- Assess the extent to which the Conference was able to bring the necessary scientific expertise on board, and to produce sound scientific outputs to inform decision-making.

Specific tasks and deliverables

The evaluation will be conducted as an in-depth assessment using a participatory approach whereby the UNCCD Secretariat, key representatives of the Dryland Science for Development Consortium (DSD), scientists contributing to the conference, regional groups, and country Parties are consulted during the evaluation.

Tasks to be accomplished include reviewing existing information from: desk review; self-evaluation questionnaires; follow up interviews; consultations with country Parties and regional groups.

Specific aspects to be considered:

- Attainment of objectives: Assessment of the extent to which the major relevant objectives were effectively and efficiently achieved and their relevance.
- Achievement of outputs and activities: Assessment of the scientific outputs and policy orientated recommendations of the conference; assessment of the extent the conference can contribute to the establishment of an, international, interdisciplinary scientific mechanism to advise the UNCCD.
- Ownership: Assessment of the mechanisms to secure regional balance, gender balance and the room given to CSOs.
- Financial Planning: Assessment of the actual project costs compared to budget and identify the sources of financing as well as in kind contributions.
- Time-frame: Assessment of the time-frame for the preparation of the papers and conference outputs, and the duration and timing of the conference.

The team of consultants (**maximum 3 consultants**) is expected to fulfill the following deliverables:

- Draft report after compilation and analysis of collected information, including conclusions and recommendations for future conferences, by 15 May 2010. The draft report will be then circulated to CST 8 bureau and DSD for comments. Any factual comments or responses to the draft report will be sent to the consultants.
- Final report with recommendations by 10 June.

REQUIREMENTS

Each of the members in the team of consultants should have:

- An advanced university degree or equivalent in relevant disciplines such as Natural Resource Management, Environmental Policy and Economics, Geography, Agronomy, Forestry, and Social Sciences
- A minimum of seven (7) years of experience in one or more of the areas listed below
- Fluency in oral and written English. Knowledge of other UN official languages would be an asset.
- Familiarity with United Nations system and procedures;
- Well documented experience in evaluation and scientific assessments;
- Experience of the transfer of knowledge from science to policy making;
- Knowledge and experience within scientific fields related to the themes of the conference

CONTRACTUAL TERMS

The contract will be issued for the period 1 March 2010 – to – 10 June 2010. Consultants are requested to undertake two missions to the UNCCD headquarter.

The detailed Terms of References for this consultancy can be downloaded at the following link:
[http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/docs/TOR - Assessment of the organisation of UNCCD 1st Scientif.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/docs/TOR_-_Assessment_of_the_organisation_of_UNCCD_1st_Scientif.pdf)

All applications should be sent to: Consultancy - 1st Scientific Conference, Attention: Recruitment, UNCCD, P.O. Box 260129, D-53153 Bonn, Germany, Telefax: + 49 228 815 2895 or by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int. No telephone calls will be returned. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address your application to or copy it to an individual at the secretariat.