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## Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

### 1. Background

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate 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.

The Global Mechanism (GM), as the operational arm of the UNCCD, is mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. The GM supports countries to translate the Convention into action.

The continued degradation of the Sahelian landscape is jeopardizing rural livelihoods and economic development in the region. In the Sahel countries, land degradation leads to an annual decline of nearly 3% of agricultural production, compromising food security and increasing the vulnerability of millions of people, particularly in rural areas. The issues become much more complex and challenging given that agriculture, livestock and forestry provide the income and employment for more than 80% of the population of this region, and land-based activities generate most of the wealth.

In this context, the GM developed a project proposal named '*Creating lands of opportunities: transforming livelihoods through landscape restoration in the Sahel*' (Sahel Opportunities Project) that is financed through a grant from the Government of Italy.

### 2. Call for expression of interest

The GM of the UNCCD invites interested organizations to submit Expression of Interest ("EOI") to become the Implementing Partner of the Project. The shortlisted organizations will be invited to submit detailed proposals as further explained below. *Note: The Implementing Partner can be a sole entity or a consortium of partners with one coordinating entity.*

The selected Implementing Partner is expected to, *inter alia*: (i) ensure proper implementation of the Project; (ii) coordinate activities with relevant stakeholders at local, national and regional levels; (iii) support identification of opportunities for partnerships and synergies with ongoing initiatives; (iv) undertake regular monitoring and evaluation; and (v) report on budget performance.

The selected Implementing Partner will carry out activities described in the Project Scope (see Annex D). In close collaboration with the GM, the Implementing Partner will also manage information and communication aspects to the Project, including the establishment of the project databases to track and monitor progress, both on financial and substantive aspects.

Organizations interested in becoming the Implementing Partner must demonstrate extensive professional expertise in the different thematic areas targeted by the Project (i.e., land, renewable energy, value chain, generating revenue activities, etc.), in complex project implementation, as well as have a proven track record of strong partnerships with local communities, community-based organizations and government agencies. National presence in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger is required for this project.



Details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and timeframe for the Expression of Interest are listed below.

### **3. Eligibility criteria**

- Local presence in the three countries (i.e., Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger) selected for the project
- Proven track record of strong partnership with local communities, community-based organizations and government agencies in previous assignments
- At least five years of extensive experience in project implementation and/or relevant experience in project assignments during the last five years;
- Demonstrated expertise in the different thematic areas targeted by the project (land, renewable energy, value chain, generating revenue activities, etc.)
- Qualified core staff at both field and management level in areas mentioned above in thematic areas and selected countries
- Independently certified audited financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement) for the past 5 years signed and stamped by independent auditor

### **4. Application requirements and timelines**

#### Documentation required for the submission

- Expression of Interest / Detailed proposal for the implementation
- Certified audited financial statements for the past 5 years
- Filled table of information (Annex II)<sup>1</sup>

#### Indicative timelines:

- Call of Expression of Interest issue date: **13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**
- Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest: **23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2020**

### **5. Submission of Expression of Interest**

Organizations interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should complete and submit their application to [secretariat@unccd.int](mailto:secretariat@unccd.int).

The deadline for submission is 23 February 2020, 23:00pm CET.

Please note that submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.

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<sup>1</sup> In case of consortium, the form must be filled by all the partners and the institutional arrangements and chart flow should be attached as support document



## ANNEX I

### **‘Creating lands of opportunities: transforming livelihoods through landscape restoration in the Sahel’ (Sahel Opportunities Project) Project scope**

The overall objective of the Project is to make a significant and sustainable contribution towards landscape restoration in the Sahel while creating income generating activities for local communities in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger.

More specifically, the Project’s activities will revolve around three components:

1. To promote landscape restoration and facilitate the sustainability of key activities through the creation of land-based jobs and income-generating opportunities for rural populations across the Sahel, particularly benefiting women and youth:
  - a. Create economic opportunities in occupations that rehabilitate the productive capacity of forests, farmland, drylands, protect biodiversity and essential environmental services provided by these restored lands, so that jobs created contribute to a cycle of increased sustainable productivity.
  - b. Provide renewable energy to local communities for basic household electricity needs as well as communal and production needs.
  - c. Promote activities that could include, among others, tree nurseries, nutritional gardens (e.g. moringa production), land rehabilitation to improve agroforestry, integration of animal husbandry and animal corridors, and forage production.
2. To promote and strengthen the enabling environment for leveraging investments for landscape restoration benefiting local communities in selected countries in the Sahel through:
  - a. A review of national “enabling environment” that ensures sustainability of actions. This may include identifying obstacles and proposing solutions to ensure access to imported items for the project, restrictions that may hinder exports of agricultural products, and linkages with existing agricultural or rural community programs.
  - b. A detailed design of interventions to avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation combining technical feasibility studies with community consultations in a participatory process. An Integrated Land-Based Development Plan (ILDP), including land use planning, is to be generated for each community.
3. To improve the livelihoods of rural communities by establishing sustainable production of high-value drylands products to connect local producers to international markets:
  - a. Capacity building will be undertaken in the communities, with women’s cooperatives, young entrepreneurs and farmers, on issues such as:
    - Land rehabilitation activities
    - Installation of renewable energy sources to support communal infrastructure
    - Training in sustainable agricultural techniques including those needed to ensure the quality standards of value chains
    - Improvements in production techniques to enable increased capacity and quality standards, including regional storage facilities and other community level infrastructure
    - Formation of cooperative group structures for effective production
  - b. Support with gaining quality standards and organic certification
  - c. Activities linking smallholder producers with private sector buyers



## ANNEX II

### Table of Information

| <b>1. Corporate Information</b>   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1.1                               | Full legal name of the company or institution:  |
| 1.2                               | Year of the company's establishment:  |
| 1.3                               | Contact information for the company's headquarters<br>Address:<br>Telephone:<br>Email:<br>Website:  |
| 1.4                               | Countries or regions in which the company is registered, own property/is qualified to conduct business:   |
| 1.5                               | Type of entity/legal status of the company in place or registration (e.g. limited liability company, proprietary company, limited liability partnership):   |
| 1.6                               | Main products/services offered (list only most important):  |
| <b>2. Partnership Information</b> |   |
| 2.1                               | Has your company been involved in any partnerships or initiatives, like the stated project, with the UN or its agencies, funds and programmes in the past?<br>Yes / No<br><br>If yes, please list the UN entity, the summary of projects implemented or being implemented (in the same area/on similar thematic), with a relevant approach combining local, national and regional levels and highlight possible synergies with the current project: |
| 2.2                               | In which country is your company present, active and strong partnerships with development partners and stakeholders at local, national and regional levels have been established? Please specify ongoing collaborations with national institutions and local communities, particularly relevant for this project:<br>Burkina Faso<br>Ghana<br>Niger   |
| <b>3. Governance Information</b>  |   |
| 3.1                               | Does the official policy of the company include sound financial rules and regulations?<br>Yes / No  |
| 3.2                               | Does the company have quality assurance procedures and risk mitigation measures in place?<br>Yes / No   |