

CONSULTANCY SERVICES♠

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES OF (NAME OF COUNTRY)

Type of position: Consultant

Duty station: N/A

Duration:

TERMS OR REFERENCE

1. Project

Supporting the alignment of the National Action Programmes (NAP) of (country) to the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD

2. General Objective of the consultancy

The general objective of the consultancy is to help increase the momentum and efficaciousness of the implementation of the NAP of (country) to the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy, through providing necessary technical assistant in accordance with the requirements of the alignment process as outlined in the relevant decisions of the UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP).

3. Specific Objective of the consultancy

The specific objective of this consultancy is to support the NAP alignment process of (country) to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy, through the provision of all technical guidance and support. At the end of this process, the NAP and all relevant national actions of (country) shall be aligned in accordance with the five operational objectives of the Strategy.

4. Background

Article 9 of the Convention determines that the elaboration and implementation of NAPs are the central elements of the strategy to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, thus making their preparation and application fundamental to the attainment of its objectives. The Conference of the Parties (COP) has over the years adopted several decisions which further underline the importance of these tools to the UNCCD process.

With the aim of furthering the improvement and acceleration of the overall implementation process, the COP adopted at its eight session, Decision 3/COP.8 outlining “The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).” This Strategy spells out four strategic and five operational objectives that should be achieved in the implementation process over the specified period (i.e. 2008-2018), and calls on affected country Parties to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities to The Strategy.

The COP at its ninth session adopted Decision 13/COP.9 containing the Consolidated Indicator for Operational Objective 2, and which also sets out a global target that 80% of all action programmes of affected country Parties should be formulated, and or revised; finalized and aligned to The Strategy by 2014.

The COP cognisant that the NAP alignment process needs to proceed apace, also adopted at its tenth session Decision 2/COP.10 on the, “Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment of action programmes with The Strategy.” This decision noted that the alignment process may present a challenge for affected country Parties. It also noted that for the alignment process to be realised, it will require strong and effective support and that there is need to speed up the process.

5. Specific output of the consultancy

The specific output of this consultancy is:

- a) The preparation of a draft of the aligned NAP of (country) that will guide the efficient and effective implementation of the NAP and other relevant action in accordance with the five operational objectives of the 10 Year Strategy;
- b) Support national consultations for the review and finalization of the draft aligned NAP;
- c) Preparation of the final version of the aligned NAP for stakeholder validation, and consequent upon the same, adoption by the relevant authority of (country).

6. Methodology to be used

In realisation of this consultancy the consultant shall employ the following methodology:

- a. Review of the existing NAP (if there is one) and all other documents and actions pertaining to the same;
- b. Initiate a process of consultation with all national stakeholders with the aim of laying the basis for the alignment of the NAP;
- c. Work in close collaboration with the UNCCD National Focal Point and the Scientific and Technical Correspondent of (country);
- d. Use the 10 Year Strategy and the Action Programme Alignment Guidelines as the fundamental basis for the elaboration of the draft aligned NAP, while being ever cognisant of the national and specific challenges of desertification, land degradation and drought in (country);
- e. The draft and final version of the aligned NAP must be done in a manner so that they:
 - i) Reflect all other important actions that must be aligned
 - ii) Contain the relevant indicators so that the future implementation process may be measured;
 - iii) Are consistent with the Integrated Financial Strategy of (country), which is an essential part of the alignment process;
 - iv) Are easy to understand and use;
 - v) Reflect the mainstreaming of the NAP in all relevant sectoral development policies of (country)
 - vi) Are synergistic with other Rio conventions;
 - vii) Can be easily adjusted in case of future reviews.

7. Specific duties of the consultant:

The main tasks of the consultant shall be:

- a) To write and submit a draft, and following its review, a final version of an aligned NAP of (country);
- b) To ensure that the final document is as comprehensive and exhaustive as possible bearing in mind the 10-Year Strategy, the Action Programme Alignment Guidelines, the

- national priorities of (country) as regards desertification, land degradation and drought and sustainable land management as a whole;
- c) To make sure that the contents of these documents shall cover the areas that are fundamental to addressing the problems of desertification, land degradation and drought and sustainable land management in (country);
 - d) That these documents are done in accordance with the conditions, structure and length, and in the timeframe prescribed by (country);
 - e) To prepare these documents following the methodology as outlined in section 6 above;
 - f) The documents produced shall be submitted in electronic format

8. Relevant documentation:

1. Articles 9 & 10 of the UNCCD Convention
2. Decision 3/COP.8: The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)
3. Draft guidelines for the alignment of the action programmes and other relevant implementation activities with The Strategy
4. Decision 1/COP.9: Implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)
5. Decision 2/COP.9: Alignment of the action programmes with The Strategy
6. Decision 2/COP.10: Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment of action programmes with The Strategy⁴
7. Decision 13/COP.10: Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against performance indicators⁵
8. Official CRIC Document: Relevant sections of the report of the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
9. Technical documents in support of the NAP alignment process prepared by the Secretariat
10. All relevant documents and sectoral policies of (country), such as but not limited to :
 - Agriculture policy
 - Land and zoning policy
 - Poverty reduction strategy
 - Water policy
 - Forest policy

9. Qualifications and competencies required:

To be able to accomplish the tasks spelt out in these terms of reference, the consultant recruited shall meet the following requirements:

i. Education:

- a) An advance university degree in environmental studies and or social sciences or a related field;
- b) Very good general knowledge of environmental issues particularly related to UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD;
- c) Good knowledge of the environmental issues and in particular the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought of (country);

- d) Sound knowledge of the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and the alignment process;
- e) Sound knowledge of the role and purpose of the NAPs in the UNCCD implementation process;
- f) Sound knowledge of the NAP process in (country)
- g) Sound knowledge of the sectoral development policies of (country)

ii. Experience:

- a) At least 7 years working experience in the field of environment protection preferably in (name of region e.g. Africa);
- b) Experience and expertise in the development of environmental action programmes;
- c) Must have experience of working in the area of development and or the alignment of action programmes for the implementation of the UNCCD;
- d) Must have worked on environmental preferably sustainable land management issues in (country).

iii. Language:

- a) Must have excellent command of written and spoken (language)

10. Terms and conditions

1. The consultant would be deemed to have fulfilled the terms of this consultancy on delivery of a final version of the aligned NAP for consideration by the government of (country);
2. The consultant shall receive a total amount of xxx on the completion of the assignment;
3. Travel entitlements for consultation/coordination meetings, if required, shall be determined (country);
4. Methodologies and products developed and delivered through this consultancy shall remain the exclusive property of the government of (country), and shall only be divulged and/or used as determined by (country).

11. Deadline of applications:

Suitably qualified and interested persons should send their applications via one of the channels indicated immediately below. Applications should reach one of these contact points no later than xxxx. Kindly be advised that only applications that meet the above requirements shall be considered.

12. Contact details:

Postal Address

Telefax:

E-mail to

♠ This is only a general guide for countries wishing to hire a consultant to assist them in the alignment process. It therefore must be adjusted to the specific needs of each country