TERMS OF REFERENCE

External Consultant – Writer/Editor Forest Brochure

Consultancy reference: CCD/18/ERPA/41

Background

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994 to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Through effective action on multiple levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, UNCCD contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is a critical target to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD. The LDN approach encourages countries to pursue an optimal mix of measures designed to avoid, reduce and/or reverse land degradation in order to achieve a state of no net loss of healthy and productive land. The LDN concept provides a useful framework for restoration not only in the drylands but also in other land types, such as forests and trees outside forests in temperate and tropical climatic regions.

Following the COP12 decision on LDN, some 120 countries have committed to establish voluntary LDN targets at the national level. These 120 countries account for more than 56 per cent of the global forest cover. Most of the 14 countries as part of the pilot phase (2014–2015) have set LDN targets that include increasing the area of forests or the productivity of forest lands.

These targets support and contribute to the achievement of Global Forest Goal 1 of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests for 2017–2030 adopted in 2017 and its targets such as (i) increasing the forest area by 3% worldwide; (ii) maintaining or enhancing the world’s forest carbon stocks, and (iii) promoting the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally.

LDN targets that include forests also contribute to the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as poverty eradication (SDG1), food security and nutrition (SDG2), health (SDG3), gender equality (SDG5), clean water and sanitation (SDG6), sustainable energy (SDG7), sustainable economic growth (SDG8), and climate change (SDG13).

Considering the multiple benefits of conserving and restoring forests, it is critical to integrate forest management activities in the LDN context especially in countries with high forest cover. This integration can be enhanced with the support of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests. In the LDN implementation phase, a coordinated action is needed. In view of this, it is imperative to provide countries with policy-relevant information including guidelines for forest restoration and rehabilitation towards so called “forest-based LDN” in accordance with LDN targets.
General Objective

The main objective of the brochure is to provide country Parties with relevant information including policy guidelines to help them achieve forest-related LDN targets.

Specific Objective

More specifically, the brochure will:

- Provide country Parties with recommendations on setting, financing and implementing forest-related LDN targets;
- Provide the good practice cases on forest-related LDN target implementation, including sustainable forest management, agro-forestry and silvo-pastoralism, and the restoration/rehabilitation of degraded forests.

Target Audience

The expected use and target audience of the brochure includes:

- The country Parties of the UNCCD, UNFF stakeholders, etc.
- International and national policy- and decision-makers in the fields of land use planning, forestry and natural resource management
- Forestry advising and extension services and other land use knowledge providers
- Other stakeholders, inter alia, community-based and land user associations, scientists and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)
- The broader, interested public

Co-branding with:

- Korean Forest Service, ROK
- National Forestry and Grassland Administration, PRC
- Ministry of Forest and Water Management, Turkey

Deliverables

- Final brochure text with references, photos, tables, maps and other graphics

Methodology/Implementation

- Familiarize oneself thoroughly with the main topics and information material provided by the UNCCD secretariat;
- Actively and effectively communicate with the UNCCD staff, clarify ideas for the development of the brochure including graphic elements;
- Propose an approach for the structure and contents, in consultation with UNCCD staff or external experts;
- Prepare and ensure timely delivery of the first and second drafts for review by UNCCD staff and other stakeholders;
Qualifications

- Knowledge in the field of environmental communications and natural resource management
- At least 5 years of relevant experience scientific, technical or environmental writing
- Excellent spoken and writing ability in English;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, interactive and professional attitude;

Contractual terms and modalities

This consultancy will be home-based and travel will not be required. Consultancy fees will be based on qualifications and the level of experience. Payment will be on a lump sum basis against delivery of outputs. Contract duration is for up to 3 months with delivery of final output by the end of March 2019. Proactive and able to work independently on the contents, at the same time ensuring necessary and timely consultation and obtaining guidance from the assigned supervisory staff.

Submission of Application

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int together with a UN Personal History Form https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd and CV, specifying the consultancy reference number: CCD/18/ERPA/41 – Consultancy – Writer/Editor Forest Brochure.

The deadline for applications is 19 December 2018. 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.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications cannot be acknowledged individually. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 19 November 2018