TERMS OF REFERENCE

Country Consultants for the preparation of National Drought Plan - India

Consultancy reference number: CCD/19/GM/65

Background

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is the only legally binding international agreement on land issues. The Convention promotes good land stewardship. Its 196 Parties aim, through partnerships, to implement the convention and achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The end goal is to protect our land, from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide us all with food, water and energy.

The Global Mechanism is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. As the operational arm of the convention, the Global Mechanism supports countries to translate the Convention into action and to achieve amongst others, drought resilience at the national level.

In recent years, attention towards enhancing drought preparedness has increased as seen in movements such as a High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy held in Geneva; an UN-water initiative of capacity building regional workshops to support the development of national drought policies, and the development and adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Against this backdrop, the 13th UNCCD Conference of Parties (Decision 29/COP13) requested the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies (including the Science-Policy Interface) within their respective mandates to implement Drought Initiative in the biennium 2018-19. Within the scope of the Drought Initiative, three work areas are identified: (i) drought preparedness systems; (ii) regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk; and (iii) a toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought.

The Global Mechanism will take the lead in supporting the Government of India in developing the national drought plans by, including, mobilizing national Consultant.

Objective of the consultancy

The objective of this national consultancy is to develop a national drought plan based on the principles of risk reduction. In particular, the national Consultant is expected to employ (but not limited to) the theoretical national drought plan model developed by the UNCCD to serve as a background document in the process of formulating national drought plans.

Specific Tasks

Under the overall guidance of the Drought Initiative team and the direct supervision of the responsible officer in the Global Mechanism, the consultant will be responsible for the
preparation of a national drought plan for the Government of India in view of achieving the following milestone of activities:

- Collect, compile and analyse existing documentation on drought policies for the country;
- Review relevant documents and reports; identify issues to be addressed; liaise with relevant UNCCD counterparts in the country and headquarters; conducts follow-up actions;
- Prepare the outline of the national drought plan;
- Liaise with country stakeholders, the Drought Initiative Team to discuss and further the National Drought Policy according to the work plan;
- Coordinate with Regional-RCU to facilitate engagement with relevant regional or national stakeholders;
- Prepare a first and final draft of the national drought plan;
- Support the preparation, implementation and documentation of any relevant event for the discussion of the draft plan; and
- Perform any additional tasks as required to deliver on the shared goals of the unit

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in environmental engineering, natural resource management, sustainable development (preferably with a focus on sustainable water and land management)
- A minimum of 5 years working experience related to natural resource management, sustainable land management, drought, food security and poverty alleviation in a national/regional context
- Extensive knowledge on drought management, monitoring, including methodologies on monitoring and assessing drought, early warning systems, risk mitigation measures
- Excellent demonstrated understanding of the workings of international conventions, preferably the UNCCD. Experience in working with UNCCD stakeholders in the country an asset
- Demonstrated knowledge in the effective facilitation of complex multi stakeholder processes
- Knowledge on the UNCCD or related Conventions
- Knowledge of English is required as well as professional knowledge of the language in the country/ies of assignment. Additional UN languages would be an asset
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time
- Excellent writing, presentation and analytical skills
Contractual terms
This consultancy will be home-based in the country of assignment and will include missions within the country and other international locations as required by the officer in charge of the programme. Consultants may be requested to cover several countries within the same (sub) region. Consultancy fees will be based on qualifications and the level of experience. Detailed work plan with deliverables will be provided on beginning of the assignment. Expected duration: 6 months with possibility of extension.

Submission of applications
Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int together with a UN Personal History Form and/or CV specifying reference number (IMPORTANT: please specify also the country/ies of interest): CCD/19/GM/65 – National Expert – preparation of National Drought Policy documents for the Drought Initiative India.

The deadline for applications is 23 August 2019. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

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 or Global Mechanism. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 24 July 2019

1 https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNCCD%20Form_1.pdf