TERMS OF REFERENCE

National consultant – Design of LDN Transformative Project/Programme in Belarus

Consultancy reference number: CCD/19/GM/66

Background

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.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. As main expected results it defines under target 15.3 to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030.

In September 2017, the 13th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD emphasized the critical role of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Transformative Projects and Programmes for the implementation of the Convention.

The government of Belarus is fully committed to achieve SDGs, particularly the LDN Targets (SDG 15.3). Following the establishment of voluntary LDN targets, the Government is now in the process to plan for LDN implementation, incl. through the design of LDN Transformative Projects/Programmes. In this context, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD is committed to provide support in identifying and designing such a project/programme concept note through the provision of a national consultant.

Consultant tasks

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer in charge of the LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes, and the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and under the guidance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

At the first stage of assignment, consultant will be specifically responsible to:

- Clarify the LDN project/programme idea based on desk reviews and interviews with national institutions and potential technical and financial partners;
• Ensure the project idea contributes to achieve the LDN targets (SDG 15.3), ideally in the LDN hotspots, and fully integrates the LDN conceptual framework;
• Identify one specific funding source, e.g. the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), among key financing opportunities, relevant to the identified project idea as well as help building the financial scheme involving several potential donors;
• In concertation with the Ministry of Forests and Environment, identify relevant implementing partners, incl. GEF implementing agency and other relevant agencies;
• Ensure sound liaison with the GEF national focal point in order to get their endorsement / no objection to follow up and develop the project concept note.
• Map out the relevant donor agencies and develop a strategy for engagement.

As a second step, once the project idea is agreed between all stakeholders and the financial scheme is defined, the consultant will be specifically responsible to:

• Produce a draft project concept note, and further integrate comments from involved parties to deliver a final project idea note;
• Facilitate, under the guidance of the Ministry of Forests and Environment, regional and national multi-stakeholder workshops to foster dialogue on the project idea note;
• Produce a full project concept note draft according to fund templates and further integrate comments from involved parties to deliver the final document.
• Develop brief on potential donor agencies, priorities and relevance with the proposed project and strategy for engagement.

Deliverables

The consultant will provide following deliverables:

• Workplan / timeline that covers central tasks at the inception of the consultancy,
• Based on the available draft project idea note, final project idea note (integrating comments), max 20 pages,
• Draft full project concept note,
• Final full project concept note (integrating comments)
• Donor engagement plan

All documents have to be sent to the GM programme officer of LDN transformative projects/programmes, the UNCCD National Focal Point and the implementing partner (once identified).

All final documents have to be delivered in English.

Requirements

• Advanced university degree in environmental finance, environmental sciences, agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, environmental economics, business development and management or related fields;
• A minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible experience in natural resources’ policy; project development, resource mobilization and innovative finance;
• Experience in drafting and preparing project idea notes/concept notes and full project documents, meeting criteria and requirements of the GEF and other donors;
• Proven work experience as a technical advisor on projects development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic: forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, etc.;
• Good command of the process of LDN in Belarus
• Fluency in English (both oral and written) is required;

**Contractual terms**

The consultant should be based in Belarus. The services of the selected consultant will be required for a period of 5 months. Start date, as soon as possible. Consultancy fee will be based on qualifications and the level of experience.

**Submission of applications**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int together with a UN Personal History Form\(^1\) and/or CV specifying reference: CCD/19/GM/66.

The **deadline for applications is 14 August 2019.** 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 or the GM of the UNCCD.

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.

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\(^1\) [https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNCCD%20P-11%20Form_1.pdf](https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNCCD%20P-11%20Form_1.pdf)