



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Expert Consultant to co-author/co-edit the 2nd edition of the Global Land Outlook

Consultancy Reference: CCD/19/ERPA/70

Background

Desertification, land degradation and drought, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity, were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 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”. Under SDG target 15.3, Member States commit to, by 2030, “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.

The UNCCD recognizes that addressing and reversing land degradation is one of the key sustainable development priorities for most of its 168 affected countries Parties. In response, the UNCCD secretariat and its partners identified the need to create a strategic communications publication and platform, entitled the Global Land Outlook (GLO), in order to facilitate insight debate and discourse on a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales.

The aim of the GLO is to communicate evidence-based, policy-relevant information and trends in an accessible way to a variety of stakeholders, including national governments formulating their responses to commitments to better manage and restore land resources, including the SDGs and associated targets, such as Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The 1st edition of the GLO, translated into all 6 UN languages, was released at UNCCD COP13 in September 2017; four GLO regional thematic reports were published in September 2019. All GLO products can be found here: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/glo/global-land-outlook-glo>.

Expectation for GLO2

The UNCCD is now preparing to produce the 2nd edition of the GLO (GLO2) to be launched in late 2021. GLO2 is expected to support and inspire the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), led by FAO and UNEP, by focusing on action and impact on the ground.



GLO2 will elaborate proven implementation pathways for meeting the objectives of the Decade, present the human face of ecosystem restoration projects and programmes, and elaborate a positive narrative and future scenarios that stress the potential and opportunities afforded by activities along the restoration continuum, considering that:

- **The restoration continuum** constitutes a wide range of activities and interventions that improve environmental conditions (ecological function), minimize and reverse ecosystem degradation, and deliver multiple benefits that contribute to the current and future sustainability of communities and the planet.
- **The target audiences** are individuals/organizations in positions of influence to improve or transform land management practices and land use planning at multiple scales, including (1) Influencers and advisors to government officials and policy-makers (e.g., think tanks, academia, councils), (2) Private sector decision-makers (e.g., food/agriculture, extractives, forestry, tourism, financial), and (3) Amplifying organizations, campaigns and networks (e.g., CSO/NGO, media, advocacy groups).
- **The scientific and evidence base** for the GLO2 will be drawn from recent (within the last five years) peer-reviewed publications as well as reports published by the UN, international organizations, institutes and think tanks. Primary among these will be the IPCC special report on climate change and land, the IPBES assessment on land degradation and restoration, and the FAO state of land and water resources (in preparation).
- **Commissioned working papers** on thematic issues will also be used to generate content for GLO2. **Case studies and best practices** will be compiled from a wide variety of sources, including NGOs, multilateral/bilateral development projects, and the private sector.

Duties and responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the coordinator of the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit of the UNCCD and the direct supervision of an assigned Officer who will act as co-author and co-editor, the consultant will co-author and co-edit GLO2.

This involves ongoing consultations with the UNCCD staff, the GLO2 steering committee and other contributors to finalize the outline, set the tone (look and feel), and develop the content for GLO2. An indicative timeline of tasks to be completed by the consultant is as follows:

Jan-Mar 2020: Undertake a comprehensive review and compile meta-analysis of the recent literature and evidence on land restoration (e.g., biophysical potential, costs/benefits, enabling factors) to 1) produce a comprehensive annotated outline with primary references, 2) identify gaps and the need for additional information and accordingly draft terms of reference for GLO2 working papers and other research assistance, and 3) elaborate several options in terms of styles for the key messages, body text, case studies, conclusions/recommendations and overall graphic direction and layout of GLO2. **These deliverables will be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting in April 2020.**



Apr-Oct 2020: 1) Coordinate and oversee the drafting of working papers and other research assistance; 2) Draft preliminary key messages, body text, case studies and the development of ideas for graphics and photos; and 3) **Produce a first draft of GLO2 for review at Steering Committee meeting in November 2020.**

Nov-Jan 2021: 1) Compile a list of external experts to be invited to review the second draft; and 2) Based on internal comments, revise, refine and produce a **second draft for external review and consultation** (six weeks duration) by outside experts and UNCCD stakeholders (e.g., SPI, Parties, CSOs, private sector, etc.) **in Feb-Mar 2021.**

Mar-Jun 2021: 1) Based on external comments, revise, refine and produce a final draft for approval by the UNCCD Science Policy Interface (SPI); and 2) Make further revisions as needed to produce the final deliverable.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in natural resource management, environmental policy, development economics or related discipline.
- A minimum of 15 years working experience related to the above disciplines, including in-depth knowledge of sustainable land/water management and restoration policies, programmes and good practices.
- Extensive project and/or policy experience in developing and/or transition countries.
- Substantial record of research and publications, including non-scientific communications.
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD, related UN and intergovernmental processes, and environment-related outlooks would be a great asset.
- Excellent writing skills and fluency in English is required. Fluency in other UN languages is an advantage.

Contractual terms

This consultancy is funded for a period of 18 months at 50% time starting January 2020. The consultant will be home-based, relying primarily on electronic communications, with 2-3 trips to Bonn, Germany or other locations for steering committee meetings. All travel expenses of the consultant will be paid by the UNCCD separate from remuneration.

Submission of applications

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int. This should include a cover letter, CV and/or UNCCD Personal History Form (P11)¹ specifying the position **CCD/19/ERPA/70** in the subject line.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

The cover letter must include the applicant's expectations for remuneration on a monthly basis. All applicants must also submit a brief concept note and annotated outline of their vision for GLO2.

¹ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNCCD%20P-11%20Form_1.pdf



The deadline for applications is 01 November 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. Evaluation of qualified candidates may include a competency-based interview. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 30 September 2019