TERMS OF REFERENCE

Country consultant - Design of LDN Transformative Project/Programme (multiple countries)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/GM/12

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 the main expected result, 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. This has been reaffirmed at the 14th session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019.

Following the establishment of voluntary LDN targets, several countries are now in the process to plan for LDN implementation, including through the design of LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes. In this context and based on lessons learned from a previous initial phase, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD launched in 2019, a call for requests for support to assist countries in developing land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes. In this framework, a first set of countries (please refer to Annex I) meeting the criteria of this call and for which the project idea is mature enough, targeting a defined funding source, are ready to move ahead to develop the project concept note with the support of the Global Mechanism and in partnership with the identified implementing partner. The Global Mechanism is particularly 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, the overall supervision of the LDN Programme Coordinator and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, and under the guidance of the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and identified Implementing Agency, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

1 See Annex 1 at the end of the vacancy.
In the first stage of the assignment, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- In coordination with the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and the main identified Implementing Partner Agency, and engaging with other relevant partners confirm the project idea and alignment with identified funding sources including private sector to ensure all partners are engaged from the start of the concept design;
- Ensuring sound liaison with the funding source national focal point (e.g., GEF operational focal point, GCF national designated authority, etc.), to secure the project endorsement, and to further develop the project concept in partnership with the main identified Implementing Partner Agency and all relevant stakeholders;
- Further defining the LDN project/programme concept based on desk reviews and interviews with national institutions and potential technical and financial partners;
- Ensuring the project concept contributes to achieve the LDN targets (SDG 15.3), ideally in the LDN hotspots, and fully integrates the LDN conceptual framework guiding principles;
- Identifying additional funding sources, complimentary to the main targeted funding source already identified, as well as key co-financing sources relevant to the identified project concept, as well as building the project/programme financing arrangements including blended financing mechanisms\(^2\) where applicable involving several potential funders;
- Facilitate building partnerships with relevant private sector stakeholders at national and/or international level and ensure their involvement in the design and implementation of the LDN project/programmes.

In the second stage of the assignment, once the project concept is agreed between relevant national stakeholders and the project/programme financial arrangements are defined, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- Producing a project concept note document according to the required funding source template, taking into account the LDN features checklist as well as paying a particular attention to mainstreaming gender, to be reviewed by the Global Mechanism team, the implementing partner and taking into account the outcome of national consultations. In cases where more than one financing source is identified, the Implementing Partner Agency and the Global Mechanism will agree on the funding source to be targeted by the UNCCD supported concept note to be developed by the consultant. In cases of a blended financing mechanism, the Implementing Partner Agency and the Global Mechanism will agree on the specific focus of the UNCCD support commensurate with the agreed remuneration of the consultant;
- Facilitating, under the guidance of the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and the Implementing Partner Agency, national multi-stakeholder consultation meetings organized by the National Focal Point institution to foster dialogue and consensus on the project;
- Producing a final project concept note integrating comments from involved stakeholders, particularly the National Focal Point institution, the implementation partner agency and the Global Mechanism.

**Deliverables**

The consultant will provide following deliverables:

- Workplan / timeline that covers central tasks at the inception of the consultancy,
- Draft Project Concept Note document according to funding source template,

\(^2\) Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries (OECD).
Final Project Concept Note document according to funding source template.

All final documents must be delivered in the languages required to facilitate national consultations and the language required for the submission to the selected funding source (i.e., English and/or Spanish/French).

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 concepts and full project documents, meeting criteria and requirements of the GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund or other relevant funding sources;
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on projects development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, etc.;
- Experience with private sector stakeholders is an asset;
- Solid knowledge of the LDN process in the country of assignment is an asset;
- Fluency in English and Spanish and/or French (both oral and written) is required (depending on country of assignment, as per Annex I).

Contractual terms

This consultancy will be home-based in the country of assignment and will include meetings with national stakeholders and international partners and possible mission within the country (if required and covered by the Government). The services of the selected consultant will be required for a period of 8 months. Women are encouraged to apply. Start date, as soon as possible.

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 the position (IMPORTANT: please specify the country of interest): CCD/20/GM/12 – Support to LDN TPP – [insert here name of the Country/ies here].

The deadline for applications is 15 March 2020. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered. No telephone calls will be returned.

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

Date of issuance: 02 March 2020

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Language requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Algeria</td>
<td>English and French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Burundi</td>
<td>English and French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Eritrea</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Guinea</td>
<td>English and French</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Nigeria</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td><strong>Latin America and the Caribbean</strong></td>
<td>English and Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Nicaragua</td>
<td>English and Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CEE</strong></td>
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<td>8 Montenegro</td>
<td>English</td>
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