TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy to support the finalization of the development of the terms and conditions for implementation of the UNCCD Mentorship Programme

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/STI/27

Background

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international treaty that addresses the question of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the context of Sustainable Development. This UNCCD process is constantly evolving and is now central among those facilitating the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030, as a key target for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Goal 15 in particular.

Capacity development plays a major role in efforts to realize the objectives of the UNCCD. Indeed they are central to the entire process as underlined in the Convention itself and the many decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties (COP) thus far (see: https://knowledge.unccd.int/cbm/cops-and-process-capacity-building-unccd-throughout-years). The thirteen and fourteen Conferences of the Parties (COP) adopted Decision 8/COP13 and Decision 2/COP14 respectively. These standalone decisions reinforced capacity development as a central pillar for the successful implementation of the Convention, as well as its significance in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in particular, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a whole.

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are nations facing specific social, economic and environmental limitations and challenges, further complicated by an overall low level of economic and human resource development, and general environmental, social and economic vulnerability. Consequently, the UN recognizes that these countries need support in their further development of individual/human and institutional capacity, and in raising public awareness to help facilitate a more efficacious implementation of their sustainable development agenda.

Based on all supra dictum, the UNCCD has designed a special Mentorship programme specifically geared to support the individual/human and collective/institutional capacity development process in the SIDS and LDCs, thereby contributing to their efforts at effective implementation of the Convention and through this, the sustainable development agenda as a whole. The present consultancy is aimed inter alia at finalizing some highly technical and administrative aspects of this programme, necessary for its practical implementation.

Consultant tasks

Under the direct supervision of the Head of the UNCCD Capacity Development and Innovations Office, and working collaboratively with all staff, the incumbent shall perform the following main duties:

1) A general analysis of the UNCCD proposed Mentorship Programme and provide advice on how it may be improved both administratively and substantively

2) Research on similar programmes that may exist within the UNFCCC Secretariat, and provide a comparative analysis with the view to improving the UNCCD programme where possible
3) Research on and providing answers for all administrative arrangements that may have to be made with the UNCCD host-country authorities as regards the mentees stay and work in the same

4) Research on mentorship programmes that major German institutions administer to ascertain if their approach may be useful and applicable to the UNCCD Mentorship Programme

5) All other pertinent duties relating to this consultancy.

**Requirements**

All applicants should possess the following skills and competencies:

- At least a master’s degree in social science (preferably, administration/education/management)
- Very good general knowledge of the UNCCD and the issues of sustainable development
- Excellent research skills
- Excellent command of English
- General knowledge of the workings of relations between the German government and UN agencies based in Bonn
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, and deliver assignments on time
- Able to adapt to an international, multicultural and multilingual environment
- Willing to take initiative and be a very good team player.

**Contractual terms**

The consultancy shall be carried out at the offices of the UNCCD in Bonn, Germany for a duration of one (1) month, beginning **1 August 2020**. The consultant shall work five days per week. The consultancy fee is based on qualifications and the level of experience. All products resulting from this consultancy are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

**Submission of application**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/20/STI/27** in the subject line.

The deadline for applications is **19 July 2020**. 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. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within two weeks of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

**Date of issuance: 23 June 2020**

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