TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy (one position)

to provide the Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD background research on the science-based evidence of approaches and tools to support integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/STI/31

[NB: These TOR are related to work of a second consultant whose responsibilities are outlined in TOR ref: CCD/20/STI/32]

Background

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

In 2013, the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNCCD established the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to facilitate a two-way dialogue between scientists and policy makers in order to ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 include SDG 15.3 as a target on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). In order to implement the LDN target, the COP, at its twelfth session, decided to include in the SPI work programme 2016-2017 an objective to provide scientific guidance for the operationalization of the voluntary LDN target (decision 21/COP.12). The SPI developed a Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN, taking into consideration decision 3/COP.12 to develop guidance for formulating national LDN targets and initiative.

Building upon the Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality, and upon the latest SPI technical report from the work programme 2018-2019, Creating an

---

1 In the context of LDN, integrated land use planning is defined as land use planning that seeks to balance the economic, social and cultural opportunities provided by land with the need to maintain and enhance ecosystem services provided by the land-based natural capital. It also aims to blend or coordinate management strategies and implementation requirements across multiple sectors and jurisdictions. With respect to scale, the entire continuum between integrated land use planning (ILUP) and integrated landscape management (ILM) is relevant to this TOR. Integrated land use planning is an umbrella term that includes more specific approaches such as, but not limited to territorial planning and spatial planning.

2 https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface

Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its Potential Contribution to
Enhancing Well-being, Livelihoods and the Environment⁴, country Parties requested the SPI
to gather science-based evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning
and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, whilst achieving
LDN and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues (i.e. objective 1 of
the SPI work programme for the biennium 2020-2021, decision 18/COP.14)⁵. Lastly, country
Parties requested the SPI to deliver, for COP15, a report synthesizing science-based evidence
of how integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management can potentially
contribute to positive transformative change in the context of LDN. Providing this science-
based evidence on land use planning and landscape management options is needed for policy
design and implementation, and for projects by development partners, the private sector and
governmental agencies involved in the phases that follow LDN target setting, to advance
SDG 15.3.

Consultant Tasks
Under the direct supervision of an assigned Programme Officer of the Science, Technology
and Innovation (STI) Unit and the overall supervision of the UNCCD Lead Scientist, the
consultant will support the SPI members working to deliver on SPI Work Programme
Objective 1 to provide science-based evidence of how, in the context of working to achieve
or exceed LDN targets, integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management
can contribute to positive transformative change, including examples of cases where these
approaches have been applied.⁶ These TOR refer to several related inputs that the SPI will
consider in their efforts to deliver on this objective.

To support the SPI in their work, this consultant is expected to conduct research and
produce a background paper which brings together the science-based evidence of
approaches and tools to support integrated land use planning and integrated landscape
management to achieve LDN targets. The consultant is expected to collaborate regularly and
fluidly with a second consultant (see note at the top of this document for the reference
number) who will be developing for the SPI illustrative thematic examples for the
background paper of how the approaches and tools of integrated land use planning and
integrated landscape management can be applied to achieve LDN targets. Both consultants
are also expected to communicate with the SPI co-leads in regular basis for refinement of
their work. Furthermore, the consultant is expected to assist the SPI and the other consultant
to translate the science-based evidence documented in the background paper and reinforced
by the thematic examples, into policy proposals. These will be designed to inform policy
makers on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape
management to positive transformative change, whilst achieving LDN and addressing DLDD
issues in the context of the often competing demands for limited land resources, and the
potential to achieve multiple benefits through optimization of the spatial mix of land uses.

responding to these TOR, the consultant will take into account gender dimensions responsive to the concerns of women, youth and girls in land-use planning and in the design of interventions towards achieving LDN. The consultant’s tasks are as follows:

1. Prepare a background paper that will ultimately serve as a contribution to the SPI technical report; the background paper will contain several elements based on the work of this consultancy:

   a) A typology of different approaches towards integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management, that captures the diversity of systems found around the world and clearly distinguishes the different levels (national to local) involved in such planning systems. The typology is developed based on, and supported by, scientific literature;

   b) An overview of the key principles that integrated land use planning needs to address for achieving LDN;

   c) An analytical overview of common tools and approaches that are used, or can be used, to support integrated land use planning and integrated land use management by indicating in what ways these specific tools and approaches support achieving LDN, their fit to different types of planning systems and the needs for extending/modifying these tools to better support LDN. This overview should show how approaches and tools might be modified/extended to better address LDN. This includes both the technical aspects of the tools/approaches itself as well as the process of their application. Examples of such tools include, but are not limited to, multi-criteria systems, land use models, participatory planning approaches, etc.;

2. Noting that the above elements will be among several others contributing to a background paper which the SPI will use to develop the overall SPI technical report, the consultant will

   a) work collaboratively with a second consultant (see note at the top of this document for the reference number) who will be responsible for developing illustrative thematic examples of how the approaches and tools identified by this consultant may be applied,

   b) translate the science-based evidence documented through these TOR and reinforced by the illustrative thematic examples produced by the second consultant into policy proposals that will conclude the background paper and later be considered for the SPI technical report,

   c) work with the second consultant to incorporate a concluding ‘lessons learned from implementation’ chapter that consultant is leading the writing of into the background paper,

   d) after its review by the SPI, and in collaboration with the second consultant, assist the SPI in integrating the approved background paper into the SPI technical report,

   e) in collaboration with the second consultant, translate the science-based evidence gathered in this consultancy, reinforced through the thematic examples produced in the second consultancy, into policy proposals for consideration of the SPI and their technical report,
f) assist the SPI in responding to comments received following the reviews of the SPI technical report,

g) support the SPI in the integration of reviewer comments relevant to the consultant's background paper into the post-review draft of the SPI technical report.

3. The selected consultant will be expected to work closely with SPI members, especially with SPI co-leads, and be responsible for collaborating with a second consultant to integrate the illustrative themes that consultant will be responsible for developing into the background paper. Both consultants will collaborate with the SPI on the integration of their work into the larger technical report produced by the SPI.

4. Attend virtual (and, if feasible, physical) meetings with SPI members to discuss the progress of the work and preliminary results.

5. Perform other duties as requested by the Lead Scientist.

**Deliverables and timeline**

The consultant shall produce the following deliverables:

- Preliminary outline of the background paper crafted in collaboration with the second consultant and the SPI (by September 2020)
- Fully annotated outline for the background paper shared with the SPI (by October 2020)
- Background research completed and shared with the SPI (by November 2020)
- Integration of work of both consultancies into the background paper (by December 2020)
- Submit background paper, in collaboration with the second consultant -1\textsuperscript{st} Draft (by January 2021)
- Final draft of background paper (with all elements from both consultants) which is designed to feed into an SPI technical report (by the end of March 2021)
- Refinement of inputs to and support in responding to the review of the SPI technical report (April 2021)

**Qualifications/special skills**

- Advanced university degree (Master’s degree and above) in integrated land use planning, integrated landscape management, landscape ecology, spatial sciences, environmental sciences, or related fields.
- A minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience in the domains listed above.
- Demonstrated experience in research/academic institutions including work on governance, land governance systems, environmental assessment, integrated land use planning or landscape management.
- Demonstrated extensive experience in systematic literature reviews and respective scientific methods/approaches.
- Excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Office applications (in particular Word and Excel), statistical packages, and relevant spatial analysis software.
- Demonstrated experience in technical report writing in English.
• Fluency in English is required (verbal and written);
• Demonstrated strong analytical, technical, organizational and communication (written and verbal) skills.
• Technical facilities (i.e. computer, software) available to carry out above tasks.
• Experience in working in an international environment.

**Contractual terms**

This consultancy may require a full-time (home-based) commitment over a period of 10 months, tentatively starting August 2020. The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the contract period at the beginning of the assignment to be agreed with the STI Unit of the UNCCD secretariat and the co-leads of the SPI Work Programme Objective 1. Consultants will be collaborating with each other to develop the requested deliverables. Final decisions concerning content will be made by the SPI co-leads in consultation with the UNCCD secretariat. The fee will be defined based on the qualifications of the incumbents and may be paid in instalments upon the successful delivery of the expected deliverables.

All products developed and delivered through this consultancy shall remain the exclusive property of the UNCCD secretariat and shall not be divulged and/or used without prior written authorization. Participation by the consultant in authorship of publications derived from this work, including the technical report and any other publications, is encouraged, under agreement of the SPI and the UNCCD Lead Scientist, and if the contribution of the consultant meets the criteria of ICMJE Role of Authors and Contributors.

**Submission of application**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int together with a cover letter and a current Curriculum Vitae (CV) and UNCCD Personal History Form (P11), specifying the consultancy reference number CCD/20/STI/31, in the subject line.

The **deadline for applications is 09 August 2020**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications will not 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 2020

---


8 UNCCD Personal History Form: [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)