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-Extended

[ 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 Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its Potential Contribution to

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

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, overseen by the Chief of the Unit, 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. Such approaches and tools to support land use planning and integrated landscape management can include computational tools such as land use models, optimization algorithms, multi-criteria analysis, but also tools that foster stakeholder participation such as serious games or preference elicitation tools. The task is to review the respective contributions of these tools, their ability to address LDN and the possible modifications that would need to be made to these tools to enable them to assist LDN implementation in land use planning processes. 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

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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. Especially, the consultant is to help guide those involved in implementing LDN in land use planning in selecting the appropriate tools to improve and support the process. This includes technical, institutional and social considerations. In 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 an analytical overview of common tools and approaches (computation and process tools) 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/modifyng 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 reviewing the different planning systems, listing the requirements of integrative land use planning and integrative landscape management, and developing illustrative thematic examples of how the approaches and tools identified by this consultant may be applied. Consultants should ensure that consistent criteria for evaluation are used based on the diversity of planning systems and the identified needs of integrative land use planning and integrative landscape management,

   b) jointly work with the second consultant to translate the science-based evidence documented through these TOR and reinforced by the illustrative thematic examples 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 different components into one consistent 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 October 2020)
- Fully annotated outline for the background paper shared with the SPI (by November 2020)
- Background research completed and shared with the SPI (by December 2020)
- Integration of work of both consultancies into the background paper (by January 2021)
- Submit background paper, in collaboration with the second consultant -1st Draft (by February 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.
- Evidence of experience in implementing or designing spatial tools that assist land use assessment, land use planning or landscape management at an academic level.
- Demonstrated experience in 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 (home-based) commitment over a period of 10 months, tentatively starting October 2020. The work is expected to fill about 70% of a full time commitment with higher workloads in parts of the period. 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**
In delivering on these TOR, a cover letter which describes your approach to producing the requested deliverables, a resume of your current Curriculum Vitae (CV) (maximum 4 pages, including a list of your most relevant publications to this topic) and the UNCCD Personal History Form (P11), should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int specifying the consultancy reference number CCD/20/STI/31 in the subject line.

The **deadline for applications is 21 September 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.

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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)