



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant to support the design and the development of a concept and strategy of and for a UNCCD Innovation Framework, including an Innovation Hub

Consultancy Reference number: CCD/20/STI/44

Background

In a dynamic world, innovation; that is to say, the creation and implementation of new ideas, approaches, methods, products and the like to ensure continued progress, is crucial to the life and indeed success of any organization. This is even more so in the case of the UNCCD, which has a mandate of playing a significant role in the ever-evolving process of sustainable development to address the vital issue of sustainable land management and the mitigation of drought. The UNCCD Secretariat as chief custodian of this process is mandated to play a key role in facilitating its implementation. This is a tremendous challenge encumbered by limitations, ranging from limited financial resources to lack of popular understanding as to the true nature and scale of these problems both at the national and global scale. And with the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNCCD Secretariat is now custodian for Target 15.3, i.e. Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), thus making having an innovative approach to its work even more essential.

From the beginning innovation was important to the UNCCD process. This is underlined in Article 19 of the Convention which declares that the Parties recognize the significance of capacity building and shall promote the same as appropriate through innovative ways. Since the entry into force of the Convention, various sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), have adopted many decisions underlining the importance of innovation to this process. Among these is Decision 2/COP.3 containing the first Medium-term Strategy of the Secretariat, which states that “The Convention..... an innovative instrument in that it has itself the role of relocating a clearly circumscribed problem in the context of sustainable development, particularly in affected developing countries.” One can fast forward to Decision 6/COP.14 , which inter alia requests the Secretariat to evaluate options for promoting greater participation in the development and mainstreaming of innovative and sustainable solutions for combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality, including in agriculture, agricultural technology, food systems, water, rangelands, mining, forestry and renewable energy.” And there are others.

Objective

The present consultancy is intended to secure expertise that will help the Secretariat to design and develop a comprehensive concept and strategy on the collection, use, promotion, stimulation, sharing of information of and on innovation to facilitate the UNCCD implementation process. This consultancy will also help lay the fundamental basis for the Secretariat’s concept and concrete practice as regards facilitation of the application of innovation and an innovative approach in and to the UNCCD implementation process. The resulting concept and strategy shall also be focused on helping to promote and stimulate the process of innovation in various crucial fields necessary for the efficacious implementation of the Convention including technology and technology transfer, science, capacity building, innovative financing, communication and information sharing and awareness raising.

Consultant tasks

Under the overall oversight of the Chief of the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Unit, and the direct supervision of the Head of the UNCCD Capacity Development and Innovation Office, and working collaboratively with all relevant and concerned staff, the incumbent shall perform the following main duties:



- 1) Design and develop a concept and strategy on innovation and its role with the UNCCD process as a whole, paying special attention to the role of the Secretariat in the facilitation of the same. This concept shall include the following:
- Conceptualization of innovation within the context of the UNCCD process;
 - Proposing a strategy for the promotion of innovation with the UNCCD process as a whole, with the Secretariat playing the key role in its facilitation;
 - Identification of the key areas in the UNCCD process in general, and the work of the Secretariat in particular where an innovative approach is needed, and proposing the possible approaches to be used;
 - The design of a mechanism for the delivery of a programme of innovation by the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism;
 - Propose an internal Secretariat structure to facilitate its delivery of the concept of and programme on innovation;
 - The role and function of partnerships to support innovation within the UNCCD process; and the identification of possible partners, and a mechanism to support the building, maintenance and delivery of results through such partnerships;
 - A concept for linking/integrating the mechanism for the delivery of the Secretariat's programme for innovation with its existing programmes of communication, awareness raising, outreach and capacity building;
 - A proposal for a biennial flagship event on innovation to be organized by the Secretariat;
 - A strategy and basic plan for the involvement of youth and Civil Society Organizations, including research institutions in the innovations programme of the UNCCD;
 - An estimate of the budget necessary to run the Secretariat's programme of innovation for the first two years;
 - A general timeframe for the initial implementation of the innovations programme;
 - Development of all other materials that may be relevant to the overall concept of innovation;
 - Any other duties relating to this consultancy as may be determined by the supervising officer.

Requirements

All applicants should possess the following skills and competencies:

- At least a master's degree in social science connected to the fields of creativity and innovation;
- A minimum of five years working in the field of innovation/creativity in the area of sustainable development in general, science relating to the same, and/or promoting sustainable land management in particular;
- Good general knowledge of the issues of sustainable development;
- Proven experience in the development of programmes/strategies on and for innovation;
- Excellent research skills;
- Excellent command of English;
- Very good Knowledge of the use of modern media including social media;
- Good knowledge of existing innovations mechanisms/platforms and the technology that runs/support the same;
- General good knowledge of IT;
- 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

This consultancy shall run for three (3) months beginning **02 November 2020**. The consultant shall be mainly home-based but may be required to work at the UNCCD offices from time to time. The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the entire contract period at the beginning of the assignment which will be discussed and agreed with the supervisor. 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 UN Personal History Form¹ and CV, specifying the reference number): **CCD/20/STI/44**.

The deadline for applications is **15 October 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: 16 September 2020

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