TERMS OF REFERENCE

Country Consultant - Support to the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process in Barbados

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/GM/45

Background

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. In the UNCCD 2018−2030 Strategic Framework Parties to the Convention further specified their goals to reach “A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

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 main expected results 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.

Since then, and based on relevant decisions taken by country Parties in the 12th, 13th and 14th sessions of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD:

- The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept was endorsed as a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD;
- Country Parties were invited to formulate national voluntary targets to achieve LDN and to integrate LDN targets into UNCCD National Action Programmes;
- The Global Mechanism and the secretariat of the UNCCD were requested to support the process of voluntary LDN target-setting in those country Parties that wish to engage in this process.

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 and to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality at the national level.

The country consultant will support the implementation of the LDN Target Setting Programme by providing technical backstopping to the national LDN target setting process in Barbados.
**Consultant tasks**

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Coordinator of the LDN Programme, and the direct supervision of the Team Lead of the LDN Target Setting Programme, the national expert will support the National Focal Point of the UNCCD throughout the implementation of the LDN target setting process at national level, including in particular:

1. Drafting country-specific work plan and detailed budget;
2. Supporting the establishment/functioning of the LDN National Working Group, including:
   a. ensuring a balanced representation and effective participation of government, science, private sector, development partners and civil society, focusing on land-related sectors;
   b. ensuring the alignment of the LDN target setting process to the national SDG process and other development priorities.
   c. acting, as appropriate, as secretary of the LDN National Working Group during meetings and consultations with stakeholders, performing relevant facilitation support services on demand.
3. Leading the country analysis (desk review) of LDN enabling environment, assessing the interlinkages with other national development priorities (e.g., UNCCD’s National Action Plan SWOT analysis and alignment process, Integrated Investment Frameworks for Sustainable Land Management, National Development Plans, UNFCCC’s Nationally Determined Contributions, CBD’s National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans) and supporting actions to mainstream LDN into the national development agenda.
4. Effectively supporting the establishment and validation of a LDN baseline and the assessment of LDN trends and drivers at national and subnational levels in order to inform the LDN target setting process;
5. Identifying priority areas for immediate LDN actions (“LDN hot spots”), covering all land degradation processes significantly present in the country;
6. Articulating, as appropriate and as quantitative and geographically explicit as possible, national voluntary targets and associated measures for review and validation by the LDN National Working Group;
7. Drafting technical and analytical reports as requested (e.g., LDN leverage plan; national LDN baseline, established targets and identified measures; LDN legal/institutional environment, LDN trends and drivers; synthesis report on the LDN target setting process);
8. Perform other duties as requested.

**Expected outputs**

Expected outputs will be discussed and agreed with the Programme Officer leading the LDN target setting process in each specific country on a monthly basis based on the country-level work plan of the Programme, including:

- Country work plan
- Analysis of LDN legal and institutional environment
- Analysis of LDN baseline, trends and drivers
- Proposed LDN targets, associated measures and transformative project ideas
• High level note and synthesis report summarizing the national LDN target setting process

Requirements
• Advanced university degree in environmental engineering, natural resource management, development economics, or related disciplines
• A minimum of 5 years working experience related to natural resource management
• Extensive knowledge on natural resource management monitoring, including methodologies on monitoring and assessing land use change, land productivity and soil organic carbon
• Demonstrated technical knowledge of GIS and remote sensing applied to natural resources monitoring and assessment at (sub)national level
• Substantial knowledge on project management and monitoring, including result-based management and result based budgeting
• Demonstrated knowledge in the effective facilitation of complex multi stakeholder processes
• Knowledge on the UNCCD or related Conventions. Experience in working with UNCCD stakeholders in the country an asset
• Knowledge of English is required as well as professional knowledge of other official language in the country of assignment. Additional UN languages would be an asset
• Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time

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. Payments will be issued on a lump sum basis against delivery of outputs. The services of the selected consultant will be required for a period of 12 months. Women are encouraged to apply. Start date, as soon as possible.

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/GM/45.

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.

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