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## *Vacancy Announcement—Internal/External*

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:	CCD/20/P/TEMP/05
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:	10 December 2020
POST TITLE AND LEVEL:	Associate Programme Officer, P-2
DUTY STATION	Bonn, Germany
DURATION	Temporary Appointment, 364 days
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT	Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
INDICATIVE NET ANNUAL SALARY	USD 47,895+ variable post adjustment and other UN benefits

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT  
INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT  
APPOINTMENT LIMITED TO SERVICE WITH UNCCD

### Background

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and land degradation, and to mitigate the effects of drought (DLDD) in affected countries around the world, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels. Established in 1994, the UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

The Global Mechanism (GM) 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. With the view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, the GM is requested to promote “actions leading to the mobilization and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties” (Article 21, para. 4, UNCCD). Such actions include a broad range of country-level strategic planning and implementation efforts.

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”. The main expected result is defined 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. The 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD endorsed the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as a guiding principle for the implementation of the Convention and requested the Global



Mechanism to assist countries in establishing targets to achieve SDG target 15.3 through an “LDN target setting Support Programme”. As its 13<sup>th</sup> session the COP requested the GM to support countries in mobilizing resources to carry-out investments to meet their voluntary LDN targets and other activities to meet the SDG target 15.3 This was reaffirmed at the 14th session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019.

The Global Mechanism is therefore currently spearheading several initiatives to implement its resource mobilization mandate and respond to Parties’ need for innovative approaches to attain the Convention’s aims, including:

- (i) Supporting countries in the development of land-based transformative projects and programmes (TPP) through the provision of technical support in the preparation of proposals jointly with financial and technical partners to deliver their voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets;
- (ii) Development of innovative financial initiatives aiming at channeling resources from new public and private funding sources, including through blended finance;
- (iii) Development of new integrated approaches to facilitate the financing and implementation of projects contributing to achieve synergies across the objectives of the three Rio Conventions; and
- (iv) Strengthening and developing partnerships with a view to facilitate country-level implementation of the Convention.

The Associate Programme Officer will support the implementation of the LDN Target Setting Programme, development of Transformative Projects and Programmes and implementation of the Drought Initiative. The position is based in the Global Mechanism in UNCCD Office, Bonn, Germany.

### **Duties and responsibilities**

Under the direct supervision of the LDN and Land Restoration Programme Coordinator of the Global Mechanism and overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism the incumbent will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP) and the design and implementation of impactful large scale transformative projects and programmes (TPPs) for the benefit of country parties tapping into relevant financing opportunities (such as Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and Multilateral Development Banks).

Specifically, the incumbent will be providing support to the following tasks:

- Collecting and analyzing relevant technical, social, environmental, institutional and technology related information, data and/or statistics to support the overall implementation of the LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP) and Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) work streams.
- Providing technical inputs to the elaboration of outreach products related to the guidelines for the Global mechanism’s (GM) country engagement related to the implementation of the LDN TSP and design of transformative projects and programmes.



- Assisting in the organization of technical and outreach activities related to LDN TSP and TPP strategies and defined priority areas; facilitating resource partner meetings and events and carrying out follow up meetings, workshops and national consultation meetings, including support to the organization of events and preparation of relevant technical workshops and conferences;
- Supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of LDN TSP, TPP and the Drought Initiative in assigned countries and regions.
- Providing support in the scoping and technical elaboration of multi/country and regional programmes and projects.
- Providing backstopping to national and international consultants, counterparts and other interested stakeholders on the development of programmes and projects at the country and/or regional levels.
- Contributing to the establishment of LDN related strategic partnerships with emphasis on facilitating the process of identifying implementation and funding partners that would support the process of identification, design and implementation of TPPs.
- Providing backstopping to the monitoring of the TSP and TPP dashboards and the TPP project pipeline.
- Ensuring that policy work spearheaded by the UNCCD Secretariat work is applied through the LDN TSP, TPP and Drought Initiative.
- Contributing to the preparation of knowledge and communication products such as briefing notes and technical papers; and
- Performs any other job-related activity required to achieve the goals and objectives of the team, the unit, the Programme or the UNCCD.

### **Requirements**

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- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent degree) in environmental finance, environmental sciences, agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, environmental economics, business development and management or related fields.
- A minimum of two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in programme planning and management, resource mobilization, economics, international relations, social science or related area is required; Experience in developing successful proposals for external donor funding, including technical writing, particularly in the context of land/natural resource use and management, land and forest restoration, agriculture, food and water security required.  
Experience in providing administrative or programmatic support to or in a field operation of an international organization is desirable. Experience in the United Nations system or an international organization is desirable. Excellent social and networking skills, ability to engage with governments and the private sector including influencing skills and experience of working effectively in an international organization.
- For the post advertised, fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of another UN official language, particularly Arabic, French or Spanish, would be considered an advantage.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

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**Professionalism:** Knowledge and understanding of concepts and approaches in project cycle management; Ability to identify issues, analyze and participate in the resolution of issues/problems. Conceptual, analytical and political skills. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations. Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work

**Communication:** Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors' language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

**Teamwork:** Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

**Client Orientation:** Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "clients" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; establishes and maintains productive partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; identifies clients' needs and matches them to appropriate solutions; monitors ongoing developments inside and outside the clients' environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; keeps clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client.

### **Special Notice**

This position is temporarily available as soon as possible for a period of 364 days. Extension of the appointment is subject to staff rules and regulations and availability of funds.

Individual contractors and consultants who have worked within the UNCCD in the last six months are ineligible to apply for professional and higher temporary or fixed-term positions and their applications will not be considered.

### **Assessment**

Evaluation of qualified candidates may include an assessment exercise which may be followed by competency-based interview.

### **Submission of applications**

All applicants are requested to complete a United Nations Personal History Form<sup>1</sup>. When completing the PHP, ensure ALL fields, ALL professional experience and contact information are completed and up to date. This information is the basis for the hiring manager to assess your eligibility and suitability for the position and to contact you.

<sup>1</sup> UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>



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PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

All applications should be sent by e-mail to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) with reference to **CCD/20/P/TEMP/05**

PLEASE INDICATE IN THE SUBJECT LINE THE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER ON THE APPLICATION.

No telephone calls will be returned. Applications will not be acknowledged; only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

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