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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Country Consultant - Design of a LDN Transformative Project/Programme in Caribbean SIDS

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/GM/62

#### Background

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.

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 the main expected result, 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.

In September 2017, the 13th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD emphasized the critical role of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Transformative Projects and Programmes for the implementation of the Convention. This has been reaffirmed at the 14th session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019.

Following the establishment of voluntary LDN targets, several Caribbean countries are now in the process to plan for LDN implementation, including through the design of LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes. Building upon relevant preparatory work undertaken in 2018, the Global Mechanism is committed to provide support to Caribbean SIDS for designing a LDN transformative project/programme concept note through the provision of an international consultant.

The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) was formulated as a part of the Technical Programme of the Caribbean SIDS Programme – an initiative that was adopted at the 14th Session of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama in November, 2003. This initiative was then endorsed in 2008 by the CARICOM/COTED on the Environment to provide a framework for assisting Country Parties for the implementation of the UNCCD, and for addressing the land management component of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy (MSI) in Caribbean SIDS. Further to this, decision 05/PHLM.3 of the 3rd PISLM High Level Meeting requested, *inter alia*, that the UNCCD Focal Points and the National Green Climate Fund Designated Authority (NDA) collaborate with the PISLM Support Office and the Accredited Entity to develop a project proposal for submission to GCF Secretariat.

In this context, the UNCCD is currently in the process of concluding a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with CARICOM to strengthen their collaboration in support of advancing UNCCD implementation in the Caribbean subregion, including a Joint Framework of Action for which PISLM is expected to be designated as the implementation arm of CARICOM.

#### Consultant tasks

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer in charge of the LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, the overall supervision of the LDN Programme



Coordinator and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, and under the guidance of the PISLM Executive Director, relevant UNCCD National Focal Point institutions, and the identified Accredited Entity, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

In the first stage of the assignment, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- In coordination with the PISLM Executive Director, and relevant UNCCD National Focal Point institutions and GCF National Designated Authorities, undertake a situational analysis to assess the capacity of different potential GCF Accredited Entities in the Caribbean, and identify the GCF Accredited Entity that would be best positioned to lead the development of the project proposal;
- In coordination with the PISLM Executive Director, relevant UNCCD National Focal Point institutions, and the identified GCF Accredited Entity, and engaging with other relevant partners, confirm the project idea considering existing draft documents and previous high level PISLM decisions and its alignment with identified funding sources, including private sector, to ensure all partners are engaged from the start of the concept note design;
- Ensuring sound liaison with the funding source national focal point (e.g., GCF National Designated Authority), to secure the project endorsement, and to further develop the project concept in partnership with the identified Accredited Entity and all relevant stakeholders;
- Further defining the LDN project/programme concept based on desk reviews and interviews with national institutions and potential technical and financial partners;
- Ensuring the project concept contributes to achieve the LDN targets (SDG 15.3) defined by participating countries, ideally in LDN hotspots, and fully integrates the LDN conceptual framework guiding principles and gender mainstreaming elements;
- Identifying additional funding sources, complimentary to the main targeted funding source already identified, as well as key co-financing sources relevant to the identified project concept, as well as building the project/programme financing arrangements including blended financing mechanisms<sup>1</sup> where applicable involving several potential funders;
- Facilitate building partnerships with relevant private sector stakeholders at national and/or international level and ensure their involvement in the design and implementation of the LDN project/programme.

In the second stage of the assignment, once the scope of the project concept is agreed between relevant national stakeholders, the GCF Accredited Entity has been identified, and the project/programme financial arrangements are defined, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- Producing a project concept note document according to the required funding source template, taking into account the LDN features checklist as well as paying a particular attention to mainstreaming gender, to be reviewed by the Global Mechanism team, PISLM, identified Accredited Entity and taking into account the outcome of national/regional consultations. In cases where more than one financing source is identified, the identified Accredited Entity and the Global Mechanism will agree on the funding source to be targeted by the UNCCD supported concept note to be developed by the consultant. In cases of a blended financing mechanism, the identified Accredited Entity and the Global Mechanism will agree on the specific focus of the UNCCD support commensurate with the agreed remuneration of the consultant;
- Facilitating, under the guidance of PISLM's Executive Director, the UNCCD National Focal Point institutions and the identified Accredited Entity, national/regional multi-stakeholder

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<sup>1</sup> Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries (OECD).



consultation meetings organized by the National Focal Point institutions and/or regional partners to foster dialogue and consensus on the project;

- Producing a final project concept note integrating comments from involved stakeholders, particularly PISLM, the National Focal Point institution, the identified Accredited Entity and the Global Mechanism.

### **Deliverables**

The consultant will provide following deliverables:

- ✓ Workplan / timeline that covers central tasks, to be provided at the inception of the consultancy,
- ✓ Facilitation of relevant stakeholder consultation meetings/workshops, including related minutes/reports,
- ✓ Situational analysis report on potential and recommended GCF Accredited Entities,
- ✓ Draft Project Concept Note document according to the funding source template,
- ✓ Final Project Concept Note document according to the funding source template.

All final documents must be delivered in the language required to facilitate national/regional consultations and the language required for the submission to the selected funding source (i.e., English).

### **Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in environmental finance, environmental sciences, agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, environmental economics, business development and management or related fields;
- A minimum of 7 years of progressively responsible experience in natural resources' policy; project development, resource mobilization and innovative finance;
- Experience in drafting and preparing project concepts and full project documents, meeting criteria and requirements of the GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund or other relevant funding sources (i.e., Caribbean Development Bank, IDB, World Bank);
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on projects development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, etc.;
- Experience with private sector stakeholders and gender mainstreaming is an asset;
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD and LDN processes in Caribbean countries is an asset;
- Professional level of English (both oral and written) is required. Fluency in other UN languages, particularly French and/or Spanish is an asset.

### **Contractual terms**

This consultancy will be home-based, preferably within the Caribbean region, and will include meetings with national stakeholders and international partners, including possible missions. 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 applications**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) together with a UN Personal History Form<sup>2</sup> and/or CV, specifying the position: [CCD/20/GM/62](#)

<sup>2</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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The **deadline for applications is 15 January 2021**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered. No telephone calls will be returned. Please address your application as indicated above and do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat or the GM of the UNCCD.

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 three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 16 December 2020