TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy – Pilot Project Development in Ethiopia and Urban-Rural Linkages

Consultancy reference number: CCD/21/ERPA/12

Background
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 mandate of the Convention and its 197 Parties is to support “a future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels – and to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The linkages between specific rural, peri-urban and urban locations are interdependent and have particular implications with regards to the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). Urbanization is projected to cause the loss of between 1.6 and 3.3 million hectare of prime agricultural land per year in the period between 2000 and 2030. With the most rapid rates of urban expansion, Africa and Asia are projected to experience 80% of the global cropland loss due to this urban expansion which, most concerning, will take place on agricultural lands that are twice as productive as national averages. In addition, soil sealing that takes place during urban development through covering land for housing, roads, or other construction work, is generally irreversible.

The UNCCD COP14 Delhi Declaration “encourages local governments to adopt integrated land use management and enhanced land governance to rehabilitate the natural resource base that makes cities sustainable, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, including by reducing rates of land consumption and soil sealing along with biodiversity and ecosystem loss”. In line with the Delhi Declaration, the Greening Dryland Partnership (GDP) -a partnership between the Korea Forest Service, the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNCCD – is launching a pilot project in Ethiopia with the aim to present a proof of concept that enhanced urban-rural linkages, facilitate LDN implementation; analyse the bottlenecks for implementing LDN at the local level and contribute to the development of a transformative project or programme (TPP).

In this context, as part of the efforts to address desertification and restore the health and productivity of degraded lands and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNCCD plans to support country Parties in developing symbiotic partnerships between rural and urban communities to jointly build resilience to environmental changes and improve interconnectivity towards a more sustainable circular economy.

Tasks and deliverables
Under the overall supervision of the Chief of External Relations Policy and Advocacy Unit and with specific guidance from an assigned officer.
The consultant will have the following key responsibilities:

- Assist with the launch and implementation of the Greening Dryland Partnership pilot project, including:
  - (a) Finalize the project proposal;
  - (b) organize the launch of the project in close coordination with the other project partners (including UNEP, the Ethiopian Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission and the Korea Forest Service);
  - (c) contribute to the development of an action plan, clear targets and deliverables;
  - (d) draft an interim report of the project progresses by the end of the assignment.

- Support the elaboration of partnership supporting documents;
  - (a) Prepare workplans or memorandum of understanding;
  - (b) Develop innovative ideas on collaboration opportunities in coordination with relevant partners.

- Produce, in close cooperation with UN-Habitat, a 30-page Technical Guide/Normative on Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) and Land, aimed at assisting member states to implement both the URL Guiding Principles and Framework for Action and their LDN targets. The technical guide should include best practices, case studies and recommendations and be implementation-oriented;

- Draft a 3-4-page Policy Summary of the challenges, best practices and opportunities for rural-urban symbiosis. The document will propose policy recommendations to national and local authorities, and partnerships and investments opportunities;

- Help organizing an event to launch the Technical Guide.

The concrete deliverables include:

- Finalized proposal and launch of Greening Dryland Partnership pilot project;
- Interim report on the implementation of the pilot project;
- 2 draft Partnership agreement and supporting documents;
- 30-page Technical Guide on Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) and Land;
- 3-4-page summary for policy makers on Urban-Rural linkages and land;
- Prepare the concept note for the event to launch the report;

**Requirements**

The incumbent is expected to fulfil the following minimum qualification criteria:

- Advanced university degree in land use, rural/urban planning, social sciences, or international development related subject;
- A very good understanding of policy and technical aspects of integrated land management including urban and rural planning and development;
- A minimum of 7 years’ experience on the above or related disciplines required. Experience working with national, international or multilateral partners, including UN Organizations and government authorities would be an advantage;
• Experience drafting and preparing project concepts, full project documents and/or implementing development projects;
• Knowledge on the UNCCD, its sister Conventions, related UN and intergovernmental processes and global environmental policy issues would be a great asset;
• Fluency in English, both oral and written is required;
• Flexibility and ability to work under tight deadlines;
• Attention to detail.

**Contractual terms**
The consultancy will be home-based for a duration of 60 days over a (6) six-month period, starting in February 2021; The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the contract period at the beginning of the assignment, to be agreed with the UNCCD; All products developed and delivered through this consultancy shall remain the exclusive property of the UNCCD and shall not be divulged and/or used without prior written authorization.

**Submission of application**
Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹ and cover letter, specifying the reference number: CCD/21/ERPA/12

The **deadline for applications is 27 February 2021**. 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 or Global Mechanism. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 12 February 2021

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