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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy for a pilot project on sand and dust storms in Northeast Asia

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/21/ERPA/88 re-advertised**

#### **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.”

Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) are a global challenge with multiple impacts on environment, climate, health, economic activities, urban infrastructure, agriculture and livelihood. As a result of human induced climate change and unsustainable land and water use practices, the frequency and intensity of SDS is increasing in some areas. Mitigation of these anthropogenic SDS sources is an important element of SDS policy. The UNCCD Parties adopted decisions on SDS (decision 31/COP.13, decision 25/COP.14) to address SDS impacts at all levels with a view to achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN), Sustainable Development Goals 15.3. The UNCCD secretariat developed, in collaboration with partners, the policy advocacy framework for SDS, SDS compendium (technical guide), SDS source base-map and toolbox in assisting affected countries to enhance preparedness and reliance to SDS.

Northeast Asia is one of the most affected regions by SDS. Countries in the region have actively collaborated to address SDS under the framework of the Northeast Network for Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD NEAN). The scope of activities extended from information sharing, technical exchange, to source mitigation, as illustrated in the “Subregional Action Programme to Combat Desertification and Dust and Sandstorm” (SRAP) of the UNCCD, developed in 2008.

#### **Objective of consultancy**

A well-developed concept note for a SDS pilot project in Northeast Asia that will leverage immediate actions of countries while strengthening cooperation and partnerships in addressing SDS in the region. Ultimately the project result can be shared with other regions and stakeholders and help mobilize further partnership towards mitigation of anthropogenic sources of SDS and thus contributing to achieving LDN.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) of the UNCCD and the direct supervision of the responsible Officer, and working collaboratively with all staff and relevant partners, the incumbent shall perform the following main duties:

- Provide substantial support, input and coordination in assisting the DLDD NEAN activity related to SDS including following:
  - Utilizing published information, reports, and documents, develop a comprehensive concept note for a Northeast Asia SDS pilot project that includes source mapping, risk/vulnerability assessment and an actionable regional strategy.
  - Develop tailored methodologies with step-by-step guidance and data requirements for risk/vulnerability assessment and source mapping.
  - Define implementation scheme of the pilot project, including identification of possible project delivery partner(s).



- Design tailored training modules on relevant topics, i.e., source mapping, risk/vulnerability assessment.
- Assist with the organization of workshops and meetings, including training engaging experts and partners.
- Any other duties pertaining to this consultancy as may be determined by the supervising officer.

### **Deliverables**

The deliverables will be prepared in clear and high-standard English, including following:

- ✓ A concept note of SDS pilot project in Northeast Asia

### **Contractual terms**

This contract shall run for 8 months (part-time) starting early January 2022. This consultancy is homebased. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

### **Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in natural resource management, environmental policy, development economics or related discipline.
- A minimum of 7 years working experience related to the above disciplines, including in-depth knowledge of sustainable land/water management and restoration policies, programmes and good practices, including sand and dust storms related issues.
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD, related UN and intergovernmental processes.
- Proven experience in the project development & management, and in-depth knowledge of climate change, arid ecosystem and desertification and land degradation.
- Substantial record of research and publications, including non-scientific communications.
- Demonstrated knowledge on desertification, land degradation, ecosystem monitoring, sand and dust storms, particularly modelling, mapping and Geo-informatics would be an asset.
- For this consultancy excellent writing and oral skills and fluency in English is required

### **Special notice**

Only individuals who can act as independent, individual economical operators are qualified to apply. Individuals who can provide their services only on account of an institution or enterprise not in their individual capacity are not eligible under this procedure.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Secretariat and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultant and individual contractor is responsible for determining tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

### **Submission of application**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) with a UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>1</sup>, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/21/ERPA/88 re-advertised**

The deadline for applications is **04 February 2022**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

<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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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: 21 January 2022