



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy - Design of LDN Transformative Project/Programme in Eswatini

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GM/C/22
(Previously advertised under the ref no CCD/21/GM/95)

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 (GM) 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 October 2015, the 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD defined Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and endorsed the concept as a strong vehicle for the implementation of the Convention. Subsequently, in September 2017, the 13th session of the COP emphasized the critical role of LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) for the implementation of the Convention. This has been reaffirmed at the 14th session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019.

The main purpose of the consultancy is to support the Kingdom of Eswatini to engage in the required national processes and develop a Project concept note.

Objective of consultancy

The final expected output from the Consultant will be the Project Concept Note document according to the GEF template in English.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer in charge of the LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes, and the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Eswatini, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

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

- Further defining the project 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) ideally in the LDN hotspots, and fully integrates the LDN conceptual framework guiding principles as well as ensure synergies with the National Drought Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Biodiversity Action Plan and targets and the Great Green Wall National Action Plan;
- Identifying specific funding sources, complimentary to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as the main targeted funding source, among key co-financing opportunities relevant to



the identified project concept, as well as building the financial scheme involving several potential donors including the private sector;

- In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture engaging with relevant implementing partners and the GEF Operational Focal Point to ensure alignment with national priorities.

In the second stage of the assignment, once the project concept is agreed between relevant national stakeholders and the financial scheme is defined, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- Producing a GEF 8 draft Project Identification Form (PIF) according to GEF 8 templates, taking into account the LDN features checklist as well as paying a particular attention to mainstreaming gender and potential private sector engagement;
- Facilitating, under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and the identified GEF Implementing Agency, national multi-stakeholder consultation workshops to foster dialogue and consensus on the project;
- Producing a final GEF 8 PIF document integrating comments from involved stakeholders.

Ensuring sound liaison with the GEF Operational Focal Point, in follow up on the endorsement required, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the identified GEF Implementing Agency.

Deliverables

Key deliverables are:

- ✓ Workplan / timeline that covers central tasks at the inception of the consultancy (to be submitted 2 weeks after signing of contract)
- ✓ GEF 8 Draft PIF document (to be submitted by 31 July 2022)
- ✓ Final GEF 8 PIF document (to be submitted by 30 November 2022)

All final documents must be delivered in English.

Contractual terms

This consultancy will be home-based and will include virtual meetings with national stakeholders and international partners and possible mission within the country (if required and covered by the Government or the Implementing Agency). 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. Detailed work plan with deliverables will be provided on beginning of the assignment.

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 5 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 GEF;
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on project development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: integrated landscape management, forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, etc.;
- Solid knowledge of the LDN, NDC and Biodiversity processes in Eswatini is an asset
- For this consultancy excellent writing and oral skills and fluency in English language 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 with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: [CCD/22/GM/C/22](#)

The deadline for applications is **12 April 2022**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

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: 29 March 2022

¹ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/work-with-us/guidelines>