



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research Associate - Ecosystem Restoration

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GI/C/40

Background

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. 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 Convention seeks to support countries to address Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD). (www.unccd.int)

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is the annual international forum for the governments of 19 industrialized countries and the European Union (EU). The G20 Leaders' Declaration, issued on Sunday, 22 November 2020, launched a "Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats". Building on existing initiatives and on a voluntary basis, the G20 countries share the ambition to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the amount of degraded land by 2040. The Global Initiative (GI) with oversight from UNCCD, will focus on capacity building, engaging the private sector and civil society and showcasing success. The Director, under the oversight of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, manages the Initiative Coordination Office (ICO).

The consultancy is required to conduct desk-based research to prepare series of reports on ecosystem restoration approaches in various ecosystem types.

Objective of consultancy

The initiative coordination office will have access regular flow of information on various ecosystem restoration practices and approaches

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Director Global Initiative the incumbent will undertake the following tasks:

Forests, grasslands, drylands, rangelands, croplands, peatlands, mangroves, soil, tundra, karst, and wetlands

- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of various Forest Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Grassland Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Dryland Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Rangeland Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.



- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Cropland Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Peatland Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Mangroves Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Tundra Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of other Wetland Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Conduct systematic research into ecosystem restoration approaches of Karst Ecosystems, including key policies, institutions, international networks active in this area and prepare a report.
- Work with communication team to produce various documents linked to the above reports.
- Review the curriculum of universities, agricultural colleges and forestry institutes to recommend how ecosystem restoration approaches could be mainstreamed into their curricula.
- Work with senior scientists and experts on these topics to develop training programmes and communities of practices for ecosystem restoration.
- Work with senior experts to develop and implement country/ecosystem specific restoration plans.
- Organise and participate in events relating to ecosystem restoration

Deliverables

Key deliverables are:

- ✓ Written reports 10x
- ✓ Monthly reports and timesheets 12x

Contractual terms

The services of the selected individual contractor will be required for 12 months starting from August 2022 until July 2023; home based but could be also required to work in UNCCD office, Bonn. Germany. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the Global Initiative/UNCCD.

Requirements

- Master's degree/PhD in Ecology, Environmental Studies, Biological Sciences, or related area is required.
- 3 years' experience after post-graduate degree. A PhD degree may be considered equivalent to 3 years of experience.
- Excellent writing, editing and oral communication skills 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 with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/22/GI/C/40**

The deadline for applications is **31 July 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 Initiative. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 11 July 2022

¹ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: [Guidelines | UNCCD](#)