



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy Policy report on Sand and Dust Storms

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/ERPA/C/50

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, prolonged drought, desertification and unsustainable land and water management practices, the frequency and intensity of SDS is increasing in some areas.

UNCCD is committed to become a lead institution to address the challenges of SDS through relevant policy measures and a coordinated approach to combating SDS, globally. Mitigation of anthropogenic SDS sources is recognized as an important element of SDS policy to reduce the negative impact of SDS at national, (sub)regional and global levels. The UNCCD Parties adopted importance decisions on SDS (decision 31/COP.13, decision 25/COP.14, decision 26/COP.15) to address SDS impacts at all levels in the context of the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality (LDN), Sustainable Development Goals 15.3.

The UNCCD secretariat developed, in collaboration with partners, the Policy Advocacy Framework for SDS, the SDS Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks, the Global SDS Source Base-map and the SDS Toolbox in assisting affected countries to enhance preparedness and reliance to SDS. They provide a strong foundation to promote further actions at all levels on SDS.

Objective of consultancy

UNCCD work programme and target on SDS is successfully delivered, including CRIC 21 and COP 16.

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:

- SDS policy support
 - Take the lead to support the secretariat’s work on SDS in the development and implementation of decisions and policies relevant to SDS
 - Consolidate analysis and best practice evidence regarding SDS management and support presentations of such findings and proposed approaches to policy and decision-makers including the UNCCD Parties
 - Provide technical input and assistance for UNCCD stakeholders in enhancing capacity in SDS risk reduction, including the implementation of SDS related decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD
 - Provide substantive input and guidance for the development, preparation and implementation of SDS relevant projects, programmes and initiatives at national, (sub)regional and global levels



- Provide substantive support to statutory meetings of UNCCD, conferences, events, workshops and trainings
- Provide support to enhance and build partnerships to address SDS, including the United Nations Coalition on Combating SDS
- Provide substantive input and guidance in the preparation of proposal, project, programme, and report to donors.
- Knowledge management
 - Take overall responsibility for information management in particularly capacity development of affected countries in addressing SDS
 - Collect, collate, refine and provide relevant information, guidance, methodological frameworks, tools, approaches, best practices for SDS management and facilitate accessibility to this information for UNCCD stakeholders
 - Facilitate exchanges of knowledge and best practices pertaining to SDS impact mitigation among stakeholders
- Advocacy and Communications
 - Advice on the development and implementation of an advocacy plan for SDS
 - Lead UNCCD's presence in the relevant fora
 - Undertake other outreach and awareness raising efforts

Any other duties pertaining to this consultancy as may be determined by the supervising officer.

Deliverables

Key deliverables:

- ✓ CRIC 21 and COP 16 documentation on SDS
- ✓ SDS toolbox including an inventory of existing SDS tools and technologies
- ✓ A voluntary policy guideline on SDS
- ✓ Organization of the science-policy dialogue on SDS, including a back-ground paper
- ✓ Organization of trainings, workshops and meetings as related to the SDS programme work

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 12 months during the period from November 2022 until October 2023. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by output. The consultancy is based in UNCCD headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in natural resource management, environmental policy, development economics or related discipline
- A minimum of 5 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 organization of trainings, meetings and workshops;
- Substantial record of publications and research, including non-scientific communications.
- Excellent writing 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 with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/22/ERPA/C/50**.

The deadline for applications is **09 October 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: 13 September 2022

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