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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Technical Guide on the integration of Urban-Rural Linkages into Land Degradation Neutrality and land restoration initiatives

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/ERPA/C/51

#### Background

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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.

Decision 22/COP15 invites Parties, to promote sustainable territorial development, including multi-level governance and planning mechanisms, as appropriate, to strengthen urban–rural linkages (URL) that address DLDD and create social and economic opportunities that reduce forced migration and displacement and increase rural resilience and livelihood stability. The same decision requests the secretariat to assist Parties, upon request, to strengthen URL through territorial governance systems by utilizing principles and guidance from existing frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and UN Habitat’s URL guiding principles, as a way to scale up land restoration activities to achieve voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and enhance the implementation of the Convention.

In this context, as part of the efforts to address DLDD, and restore land health and productivity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNCCD is hiring a consultant to prepare a technical guide on the integration of URL guiding principles into LDN and land restoration initiatives. One successful model for this type of technical guide was recently published by the UNCCD and FAO. <https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/technical-guide-integration-voluntary-guidelines-responsible-governance>

#### Objective of consultancy

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The main deliverable is a Technical Guide and Summary for Decision Makers which will include:

- An introduction, rationale and background information, including URL guiding principles and their integration into LDN and land restoration initiatives;
- An engaging narrative containing universal and context-specific entry points for integration and concrete pathways, with good practice examples, through which countries can strengthen URL so as to contribute to LDN and land restoration initiatives at national and sub-national levels;
- Infographics and other graphic elements;
- References to both the peer-reviewed and grey literature.



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### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit and direct supervision of the responsible officer, the consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Produce a 30-40 page Technical Guide/Normative on Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) and Land, aimed at assisting countries to implement the URL Guiding Principles and Framework for Action in the context of their LDN and land restoration initiatives. The technical guide will include best practices, case studies, and actionable entry points and pathways, with the possible inclusion of annexes as appropriate.
- Produce a Summary for Decision Makers clearly highlighting the rationale, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening URL for people, nature and climate that can be adapted to suit regional and local circumstances. The summary should contain evidence-based, policy-relevant recommendations for national and local authorities, with a focus on partnerships and investment opportunities;
- Organize a virtual stakeholder consultation, provide content for a series of webinars, develop training materials, and support the launch event for the Technical Guide

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### **Deliverables**

Key deliverables:

Technical Guide of 30-40 pages (with annexes as appropriate) and a Summary for Decision Makers, in English. The envisioned process is as follows:

- ✓ Develop a work plan and conduct informal consultations with relevant experts
- ✓ Conduct desk research and propose structure for the Technical Guide
- ✓ First draft of the Technical Guide with references or annotated bibliography
- ✓ Formal partner consultation on draft
- ✓ Revised draft based on comments received
- ✓ Presentation at stakeholder consultation and webinars
- ✓ Final draft of the Technical Guide and Summary ready for layout
- ✓ Development of training materials and launch event

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### **Contractual terms**

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be during the period 01 November 2022 with the delivery of all final deliverables not later than 30 May 2023. This contract is based on deliverables and payment will be in two installments. The consultancy is home based.

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### **Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in land use planning, integrated landscape management, urban-rural planning, or other related subjects.
- A minimum of 7 years' experience on URL and related issues is required;
- Excellent understanding of policy and technical aspects of integrated land use planning and management, including sustainable territorial governance and URL in development planning;
- Robust experience in drafting and preparing concept notes, guidance documents, and/or implementing development projects with URL components;
- Experience working with national, international or multilateral partners is an advantage;
- Knowledge of the UNCCD and related UN and intergovernmental processes and global environmental policy issues is an advantage;
- Ability to adhere to work plan and agreed deadlines;
- Attention to detail.
- Excellent writing skills and fluency in English language is required.



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### 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/22/ERPA/C/51](#).

The deadline for applications is **18 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: 19 September 2022

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<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>