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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy to support efforts to integrate land tenure into the implementation of LDN and land restoration initiatives

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/ERPA/C/52

#### Background

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The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking the environment, poverty, and development to sustainable land management in the drylands. Its objective is to combat desertification, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels.

Secure land tenure is a core aspect of responsible land governance and a fundamental driver of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, and other nature-based solutions for combatting desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD).

With wide support from Civil Society Organizations, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNCCD adopted decision 26/COP14 on land tenure in 2019, acknowledging the importance of tenure security to enhance the implementation of the convention. At the COP15 in 2022, countries further strengthened their commitment to promoting more secure land tenure, especially for women, youth, and those in vulnerable situations.

In decision 27/COP15 on land tenure, the Parties specifically requested the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism along with relevant partners to develop specific guidance and exchange lessons learned, through national consultations in selected countries across regions, to assist Parties on the ways and means to integrate land tenure into land degradation neutrality, such as targets, plans, projects, and programmes.

The UNCCD with partners, such as FAO and Landesa, have developed publications to support the integration of land tenure – and particularly the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries, and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) – into LDN and land restoration initiatives. Consultations will be organized with regions and countries to support efforts towards integration, by translating policy guidance into meaningful action on the ground. For more information:

Technical guide on the Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Neutrality

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/technical-guide-integration-voluntary-guidelines-responsible-governance>

Land rights matter for people and the planet - An options paper for raising awareness on responsible land governance for combatting desertification, land degradation, and drought

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/land-rights-matter-people-and-planet>

#### Objective of consultancy

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Virtual consultations in at least 5 regions and final report on the outcomes. National consultations in up to 10 countries and final reports on the outcomes. Dissemination of lessons learned and specific guidance to assist Parties on the ways and means to integrate land tenure into LDN and land restoration initiatives.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

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Under the overall supervision of the Chief, External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit and the direct supervision of the assigned officer, the consultant will support the organization of virtual



regional consultations and in-person national consultations according to the following objectives:

- 1) to raise awareness among regional and national actors on the importance of secure tenure for the success of LDN and land restoration initiatives
- 2) to identify countries and partners that are prepared to work on tenure issues at the national level in the context of their LDN and land restoration initiatives
- 3) to organize regional and national level consultations that further contextualize guidance, tools, and lessons learned based on region- and country-specific needs.

Specific tasks include but are not limited to:

- Working closely with the UNCCD/FAO staff to prepare and coordinate the substantive aspects of the consultations
- Developing concept notes, preliminary documentation, and related materials for regional (virtual) and national (in-person) consultations, identifying key objectives, modalities of operation, and stakeholder engagement
- Organizing the consultations including the design of the programme, liaising with key partners, drafting invitations, coordinating with speakers and interpreters
- Develop a template and draft final reports for each consultation with key outcomes and relevant disaggregated data on participation to be presented at UNCCD COP16

### **Deliverables**

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The expected deliverables are robust and engaging virtual and in-person consultations with country representatives, key regional partners, and relevant stakeholders as well as consolidated reports and key lessons learned and specific guidance emerging from the consultations.

### **Contractual terms**

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be during the period 01 November 2022 until October 2023. This contract is home-based, and payment is upon received deliverables. The consultancy is home based with possible travel which will be discussed in the future.

### **Requirements**

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- A Master's or PhD degree in law and land governance, spatial/regional planning, natural resource management, or any related field is required.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in policy, research, projects, or programmes with an emphasis on sustainable environmental management and land rights and tenure is required.
- Experience in transdisciplinary work.
- Extensive experience in land tenure policy, projects, or programmes
- Technical expertise in land tenure-related matters, such as land administration, land tenure policy, tenure regularization and mapping, etc.
- Experience in organizing participatory workshops and webinars, multi-stakeholder platforms, social media outreach, liaising with technical teams, and facilitation of consultations
- Experience with report writing and consolidation of key lessons learned, with capacity to track results and provide relevant disaggregated data on stakeholder participation
- Experience with indigenous, gender and youth tenure issues is considered a strong asset.
- Excellent writing skills and fluency in English language is required. Knowledge of another UN official language is an asset.

### **Special notice**

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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**

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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/52](#).

The deadline for applications is **21 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.

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Date of issuance: 22 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>