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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Research Associate Consultant

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GI/C/57

#### Background

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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](http://www.unccd.int))

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is the annual international forum for the governments from 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 extensive desk reviews and compile content to develop a global information exchange system for land degradation.

#### Objective of consultancy

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Country profiles which are ready to be incorporated into the global information system. Events organized and participated

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

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The consultant is expected to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Conduct systematic review of the land degradation issues, restoration efforts, technologies for restoration used, legislation, institutions and opportunities in priority countries (priority based on the International Federation of Red Cross list of Global Climate Resilience Programme)
2. Conduct thematic review on land degradation issues associated with forest fires, including technological possibilities
3. Lead the effort to conduct a Hackathon on the use of artificial intelligence for sustainable land management
4. Support organizing events for the G20 especially leading the components on technology.

#### Deliverables

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Key deliverables:

- ✓ Prepare 4 country profiles per month
- ✓ Thematic report on forest fire and restoration
- ✓ Event reports

#### Contractual terms

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 6 months, starting on 01 December 2022. The consultancy is based in UNCCD office in Bonn, Germany.



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## Requirements

- Advanced university degree (master's or higher) in degree in Environmental Studies, Geography, GIS, Public Policy or related area. Skill in Geographical Information Systems
- A minimum of 2 years of progressively responsible experience in environmental research including statistics. 1-year experience after post-graduate degree
- Familiarity with the working environment and professional standards of international organizations and national and State Governments
- Fluency in English language, both oral and written, 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.

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## 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/GI/C/57](#).

The deadline for applications is **16 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: 10 October 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>