



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Support mainstreaming gender equality in LDN and Land Restoration initiatives

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GM/C/63

Background

The Global Mechanism is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. As the operational arm of the convention, the Global Mechanism (GM) supports countries to translate the Convention into action.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. As the main expected result, it defines under target 15.3 to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030.

In October 2015, the 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD defined Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and endorsed the concept as a strong vehicle for the implementation of the Convention and invited country parties to formulate national voluntary targets to achieve LDN and mainstream LDN Targets in national strategies and action plans.

In September 2017, the 13th session of the COP emphasized the critical role of LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) in the implementation of the Convention. This has been reaffirmed at the 14th session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019 and the 15th session of the COP in Abidjan in May 2022.

The promotion of gender equality is both central to UNCCD's mandate and is a priority within the organization's activities. In light of expediting the implementation of gender equality-related initiatives, GM is seeking expert services in accomplishing the activities defined in the below sections.

Objective of consultancy

The final expected output from the International Consultant will be:

- Project concept notes, proposals, and various reports mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment components
- Various technical and awareness-raising documents related to gender equality issues are developed.
- Technically sound and high-quality gender responsive concept notes and project proposals

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Coordinator and the guidance of the team members of the LDN and Land Restoration Programme, the consultant will support mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment issues across the initiatives of the GM.

Specifically, the consultant will be responsible to perform the following duties:

- Support the development of large-scale, multi-country, regional/sub-regional/national, gender-responsive project concept notes and project documents in the area of DLDD aligning with the requirements of the targeted funding source;
- Support the identification of relevant past, ongoing and planned projects and initiatives to ensure synergies, and gender responsiveness, and avoid duplication, which may entail reviewing and



revising the initial concept notes prepared by local consultants, reviewing project concepts notes prepared by other partners and reviewing project documents and required technical annexes including project budgets, work plans, gender assessments and gender action plans among others in accordance with the requirements of the targeted funding source;

- Provide technical input and guidance to ensure the integration of gender aspects in various gender-related studies and assessments/analyses including gender gap analysis, gender action plan, thematic studies/analysis, pre/feasibility studies, socio-economic assessment, value-chain analysis, etc., as required for the projects' development;
- Facilitate communication between national consultants, international and national stakeholders, private sector as well as solicit input from local authorities;
- Produce various knowledge and awareness-raising products (flyers, briefs, PowerPoint presentations etc.) promoting gender equality in TPP processes and other initiatives led by GM and develop case studies/good practices on successfully incorporating gender in the project development and implementation;
- Support capacity development initiatives on gender mainstreaming during the project preparation process and reporting both in-house and at the implementation partners' levels, as required;
- Ensure that financial institutions' gender standards/requirements for the projects to be financed are met;
- Identify key gaps (including gender) that need to be addressed in the concept notes and support to build synergy on gender mainstreaming between UNCCD initiatives- drought initiative, Great Green Wall initiative, and various regional projects including PIDACC Zambezi water course project, etc.
- Ensure synergies with other sectors including contribution to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Biodiversity Targets among others; and
- Perform any other related activities required to achieve the goals and objectives of the team.

Deliverables

Key deliverables:

- ✓ Quarterly Workplan describing work to be carried out in the quarter as assigned by the GM programme coordinator.
- ✓ Quarterly progress report highlighting major achievements made in the quarter, which should include supporting documents including but not limited to technical briefs, input provided to various documents, technical guidance, facilitation of workshops etc.

In total 4 progress reports should be delivered, and the payment will be made upon satisfactory performance

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 12 months subject to satisfactory performance on the development of documents and expected duties/supports outlined under these terms of reference. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by outputs. The consultancy is home-based, part-time. Women are encouraged to apply. Start date: as soon as possible

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in gender studies, gender and development, environmental finance, environmental science, forestry, climate change, environmental economics, or any other relevant fields.



- A minimum of ten years of experience in the field of gender-responsive project development, and gender mainstreaming at policy levels, preferably in the field of climate change, land restoration and ecosystem management, development finance, climate finance, and blended finance.
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on project development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: sustainable land and water management, forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate-smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, water resources management, renewable energy etc.
- Demonstrated knowledge and skills in developing gender policy briefs, strategy development, technical review, and writing reports/analysis, facilitating technical sessions.
- Experience in producing documents for various funding agencies (e.g., Global Environment Facility the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Multilateral Development Bank) that have ensured the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment aspects successfully.
- Experience with private sector stakeholders is an asset.
- Fluency in English, both oral and written is required. Knowledge of other UN languages is an asset.

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/P11 and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/22/GM/C/63**.

The deadline for applications is **17 November 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: 28 October 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>