



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Global Land Outlook thematic report on rangelands and pastoralists

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/ERPA/C/64

Background

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking the environment and development to sustainable land management. The vision of the UNCCD and its 197 Parties is to realize “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 objective of the UNCCD is to support countries and communities with the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions.

More than half of the Earth’s land surface is classified as rangelands, including grasslands and savannas not grazed by domestic or wild animals, which are suffering considerably from desertification, land degradation and drought, disproportionately affecting countries with significant dryland areas. Rangelands are often an overlooked land use type despite their unique biodiversity and provision of vital ecosystem services, like food production, water security, climate mitigation and adaptation, and meaningful livelihoods. There is an urgent need to ensure that these grass-dominated landscapes are a priority in conservation and restoration efforts so that healthy rangelands and their benefits are safeguarded for future generations.

The United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (e.g., camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas and guanacos) which are an important source of livelihood for millions of families - most of them pastoralists - in dryland and mountainous rangeland ecosystems around the world. Furthermore, the UN has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) to raise awareness and direct attention to the sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism and their contribution to achieving sustainable development. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N22/240/35/PDF/N2224035.pdf>

The IYRP recognizes the relevance of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism, including for the implementation of the UNCCD and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets under SDG target 15.3. In this context, as part of the efforts to combat desertification, land degradation and drought, and restore rangeland health and productivity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNCCD is hiring a consultant to produce a Global Land Outlook (GLO) thematic report on rangelands and pastoralists that provides a framework for action to manage and restore rangelands as well as the evidence base for sustained financing and cooperation at all levels and across all sectors. See for example the GLO SADC report published in 2022. <https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/southern-africa-leveraging-land-water-and-energy-nexus-sadc>

Objective of consultancy

High quality, professionally written, evidence-based 65-75-page GLO Thematic Report on rangelands and pastoralism (inclusive of a brief Summary for Decision Makers) in English that is comprehensively researched, fully referenced, with a full range of graphic elements, and which is informed by consultations with experts and key stakeholders, as described above in the duties and responsibilities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

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



- Produce a GLO Thematic Report on rangelands and pastoralists, 65-75 pages in final layout, that begins with a high level global analysis, featuring:
 - The challenges: recent trends in the health and productivity of rangelands and impacts on pastoral communities, focusing on human-induced land degradation, conversion and fragmentation in the face of climate change
 - The opportunities: horizon scan and mapping of policy response and investment frameworks with the potential for scaling up conservation, sustainable management and restoration in rangelands
- The report will describe in detail regional or sub-regional hot spots (rangeland degradation) and bright spots (rangeland improvement), such as the Central America, Andean region, and Southern Cone, the Middle East/Africa, and Central Asia/Mongolia, utilizing publicly available data for relevant biophysical and socio-economic criteria and indicators.
- The report will develop 1-2 country profiles from each region or sub-region that provide a compelling rationale for investing in rangeland projects and programmes that result in (i) climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and green growth opportunities, (ii) more resilient livelihoods of indigenous peoples, local communities, and other pastoral groups in vulnerable situations, and (iii) reduced conflicts over scarce resources, forced migration and displacement. Each country profile will include:
 - data-driven analysis and examples of good practices, including through sustainable land and water management, more inclusive governance (e.g., legitimate tenure rights, gender responsiveness, stakeholder engagement), boosting institutional capacities and landscape partnerships, and attracting sustained finance for rangeland management and restoration projects and programmes that contribute to multiple development and sustainability objectives at national and sub-national levels.
 - ways and means to integrate capacity building and increased investment for rangeland management and pastoral communities into existing environmental commitments at the national level, including those contained in the UNCCD 2022 national reporting, LDN country reports, NDCs, NBSAPs, SDGs, and other relevant action plans and programmes.
- The report will also include:
 - A Summary for Decision Makers highlighting the challenges and opportunities for improving rangeland planning and management practices that can be tailored to national and local circumstances for the benefit of people, nature, and climate.
 - Infographics, figures, tables, maps, photos, and other graphic elements.
 - Comprehensive references to both the peer-reviewed and grey literature.

The consultant will work closely with the UNCCD secretariat, the Global Mechanism and members of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface to provide quality assurance as well as help organize virtual partner and stakeholder consultations that contribute to the report as well as to its review and dissemination.

Deliverables

Key deliverables: GLO thematic report of 65-75 pages (with Summary for Decision Makers and annexes as appropriate in English. The envisioned process is as follows:

- ✓ Develop a work plan, conduct desk research, and propose a structure for the report
- ✓ Consult with and seek contributions from relevant experts, organizations, and networks
- ✓ Produce first draft of the report (with references or annotated bibliography)
- ✓ Organize a partner consultation on first draft
- ✓ Revise draft based on comments received
- ✓ Conduct a broader stakeholder consultation on the second draft
- ✓ Produce final draft of the report (with graphics ready for layout)
- ✓ Help develop communications and other materials for launch event

Contractual terms



This contract shall run for 7 months starting not later than 15 January 2023 with the delivery of all final outputs not later than 30 August 2023. This consultancy is homebased. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in integrated land use planning, rangeland/livestock management, ecosystem restoration or other related subjects.
- A minimum of 15 years' experience is required;
- Excellent understanding of the policy and technical aspects of rangeland planning and management, including related governance, institutional, and finance considerations;
- Experience in drafting and preparing concept notes, technical briefs, guidance documents, and/or implementing development projects with significant rangeland and pastoralist components;
- Experience working with national, regional, international or multilateral partners;
- Knowledge of the UNCCD and related UN and intergovernmental processes and global environmental policy issues is an advantage;
- Ability to meet agreed deadlines; Attention to detail.
- Proven excellent communication and writing skills in English language 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/P11 and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/22/ERPA/C/64**.

The deadline for applications is **27 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: 27 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>