



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Country Consultant - Support to the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process in the Republic of Tajikistan

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GM/C/69

Background

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 addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. In the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework Parties to the Convention further specified their goals to reach “A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

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 main expected results 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.

Since then, and based on relevant decisions taken by country Parties in the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th sessions of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD:

- The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept was endorsed as a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD;
- Country Parties were invited to formulate national voluntary targets to achieve LDN and to integrate LDN targets into UNCCD National Action Programmes;
- The Global Mechanism and the secretariat of the UNCCD were requested to support the process of voluntary LDN target-setting in those country Parties that wish to engage in this process.

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 supports countries to translate the Convention into action and to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality at the national level.

The country consultant will support the implementation of the LDN Target Setting Programme by providing technical backstopping to the national LDN target setting process in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Objective of consultancy

Expected outputs will be discussed and agreed with the Programme Officer leading the LDN target setting process in each specific country on a monthly basis based on the country-level work plan of the Programme, including:

- Analysis of LDN baseline, trends and drivers
- Proposed LDN targets, associated measures and transformative project ideas
- High level note and synthesis report summarizing the national LDN target setting process



Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Coordinator of the LDN Programme, and the direct supervision of the Coordinator of the UNCCD Regional Liaison Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Team Lead of the LDN Target Setting Programme, the national expert will support the National Focal Point of the UNCCD throughout the implementation of the LDN target setting process at national level, including in particular:

1. Effectively supporting the establishment and validation of a LDN baseline and the assessment of LDN trends and drivers at national and subnational levels in order to inform the LDN target setting process;
2. Identifying priority areas for immediate LDN actions (“LDN hot spots”), covering all land degradation processes significantly present in the country;
3. Articulating, as appropriate and as quantitative and geographically explicit as possible, national voluntary targets and associated measures for review and validation by the LDN National Working Group;
4. Drafting technical and analytical reports as requested (e.g., LDN leverage plan; national LDN baseline, established targets and identified measures; LDN legal/institutional environment, LDN trends and drivers; synthesis report on the LDN target setting process);
5. Perform other duties as requested

Deliverables

Key deliverables:

- ✓ Delivery of LDN baseline report including analysis of land degradation trends and drivers, and the LDN baseline validation workshop and related report;
- ✓ Delivery of LDN targets and measures report, and the LDN targets validation workshop and related report;
- ✓ Delivery of high-level note, identification of transformative projects, and national LDN report.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 6 months starting in January 2023. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by outputs. The consultancy is home-based.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in environmental engineering, natural resource management, development economics, or related disciplines
- A minimum of 5 years working experience related to natural resource management
- Extensive knowledge on natural resource management monitoring, including methodologies on monitoring and assessing land use change, land productivity and soil organic carbon
- Demonstrated technical knowledge of GIS and remote sensing applied to natural resources monitoring and assessment at (sub)national level
- Substantial knowledge on project management and monitoring, including result-based management and result based budgeting
- Demonstrated knowledge in the effective facilitation of complex multi stakeholder processes
- Knowledge on the UNCCD or related Conventions. Experience in working with UNCCD stakeholders in the country an asset
- Knowledge of Russian is required as well as professional knowledge of other official language in the country of assignment. Additional UN languages, particularly English would be 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/69**.

The deadline for applications is **04 December 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: 18 November 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>