



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Economist/Financial analyst for contributing to the development of a Resource Needs Assessment

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GM/C/70

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 seeks to support countries to address Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD).

At the UNCCD COP13, countries agreed (decision 7/COP.13) on a new global roadmap to address land degradation. The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework includes a set of 5 Strategic Objectives (SO) adopted to guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2018–2030. The Strategic Objective 5 (SO5), in particular, aims at mobilizing substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level.

As the operational arm of the Convention, the Global Mechanism supports countries in translating the Convention into action. We are mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of resources. We aim to be small but agile team catalyzing solutions that are relevant to country Parties and that deliver transformative and tangible benefits to their people and landscapes.

Objective of consultancy

To contribute to the technical development of the methodology for the Needs Assessment as requested by Decision 13/COP 15. In addition, this consultancy is intended to support the piloting of the methodology in selected countries by supporting the estimates of resource needs and developing the underlying datasets, current financing for DLDD and resources gap.

Duties and Responsibilities:

As part of the Global Mechanism's efforts to assist Parties in the mobilization of resources, Decision 13/COP.15 requests the Global Mechanism to develop a methodology and conduct a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention, building on national reporting, voluntary targeting-setting exercise and other relevant processes.

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and reporting to the assigned Programme officer, the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Contribute to the development and drafting documents of the methodologies used for identifying, quantifying and costing needs across UNCCD processes and tracking current financial flows targeting Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD);
- Support the empirical application of the developed methodologies for estimating resource needs and expenditures in DLDD at national level for selected countries;
- Review country Parties reports to assess needs and estimate trends in DLDD across UNCCD processes based on the developed methodology, including LDN Reports, National Drought Plans, UNCCD National Reporting, etc.;



- Examine relevant databases related to DLDD, and support data management of the needs assessment;
- Support the analysis of the needs and trends in DLDD in the selected countries, and draft technical report featuring the main results.
- Contribute to the estimates and analysis of the financial resource gap to achieve the objectives of the Convention, based on the assessed resource needs and current state of finance for DLDD;
- Review needs assessments in the area of sustainable development.

Deliverables

Key deliverables:

- ✓ Develop a technical note containing:
 - i) Evaluation of relevant databases proposed for the Financial Needs Assessment, justifying their inclusion as part of the assessment.
 - ii) Summary of other Financial Needs Assessments in the area of Sustainable development.
 - iii) Template for implementing the methodology across UNCCD processes and Country of Parties.
 - iv) Other contributions made in the methodology during the consultancy.
- ✓ Database containing the application of the methodology to selected countries.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 5 months starting as soon as possible. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by outputs. The consultancy is home-based.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in environmental economics, agricultural economics, natural resource economics, development, finance or related disciplines.
- A minimum of 5 years working experience related to relevant areas of expertise such as the economics of land degradation or finance for development.
- Knowledge of the UNCCD or related Convention processes.
- Expert knowledge on economic analysis.
- Experience in handling databases.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Excellent communication (writing, presentation).
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time
- Knowledge of English language is required. Knowledge of additional UN languages 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/70**.

The deadline for applications is **02 January 2023**. 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: 05 December 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>