



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant International Drought Resilience Alliance

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/01

Background

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 mandate of the Convention and its 197 Parties is to support a future that avoids, and reverses desertification/land degradation and minimizes effects of drought (DLDD) in affected areas at all levels – and to achieve a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Droughts are the most far-reaching of natural disasters, causing short and long-term economic and ecological losses as well as significant secondary and tertiary impacts. To reduce societal vulnerability to droughts, there is a need to overcome the prevailing structures of reactive, post hazard management approaches and to move towards proactive and risk management approaches.

Against this backdrop, spearheaded by the governments of Senegal and Spain, a group of like-minded countries in partnership with various stakeholders at all levels took the initiative to form an International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) to catalyze political momentum to achieve a transformational change of actions and mindsets towards drought resilience - a transformation in the way the impact of drought is managed which is essential to reduce this existential threat to many parts of the world. The initiative was launched on 7th November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt at the margins of the UNFCCC COP 27 in a high-level event, jointly convened by Senegal and Spain.

The International Drought Resilience Alliance is a collaborative platform to generate political momentum and action that supports countries, cities, and communities to combat drought proactively. The alliance will promote effective and efficient preparedness and adaptation measures that go beyond disaster response to reduce vulnerability to drought, in support of the drought-related international cooperation that already exists under the umbrella of the UNCCD. The alliance seeks to act as a global facilitator for drought management focused on systemic risk. To reduce systemic risks and avoid new ones, there must be a shift from dealing with drought impacts reactively to getting ahead of the curve and addressing underlying risk drivers. Socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability of exposed systems must be reduced and impacts of land degradation, biodiversity loss climate change mitigated as part of a transition from reactive to prospective and proactive risk management.

In the next two years, the UNCCD Secretariat will support the Alliance in the operationalization of its work, ensuring coherence and consistency with the fulfilment of all relevant COP decisions related to drought.

Objective of consultancy

Deliverables are focused on ensuring that the International Drought Resilience Alliance carries out a rigorous process to enable it to deliver high-quality results by COP 16 in 2024.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary and the direct supervision of the Chief of Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation (GPA-RC), the consultant will support the work programme and priority activities of the International Drought Resilience Alliance for the 2023 – 2024 biennium.

Specifically, the consultant performs the following activities:

- supports all activities of the International Drought Resilience Alliance ranging from producing substantive documents to supporting logistic actions, including:
- gathering key inputs from literature, experts, and other means to drafting and collecting cases for preliminary key messages, body text and case studies as per the guidance of the IDRA Steering



Committee (SC); supports the organization of both virtual and in-person meetings of the SC and IDRA's membership at large, and the side events at the UN Water Conference, both substantively and logistically, in collaboration with the GPA-RC Unit team; develops and executes a workplan for the realization of IDRA's objectives, specifically regarding its four pillars of action (policy advocacy, common framework for drought resilience, showcasing best practices and drought finance); supports communication teams in preparing inputs for communications materials.

- in consultation with relevant colleagues within the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, supports the development of concept notes for national and regional projects and programmes for the fulfilment of IDRA's objectives; liaises, as appropriate, with all relevant partners and stakeholders in the fulfilment of IDRA's objectives. identifies gaps and the need for additional information and action and proposes courses of action. performs any other job-related activity required to achieve the goals and objectives of the International Drought Resilience Alliance

Deliverables

Key deliverables:

- ✓ Prepare substantive and logistical documents for the first SC of the International Drought Resilience alliance.
- ✓ Support the Alliance in the elaboration of Terms of Reference and rules of engagement of the SC.
- ✓ Mapping of institutions at the global and regional level that have expertise on drought resilience, including international cooperation agencies (bilateral and multilateral), academic institutions, regional centers, civil society organizations and collectives from the private sector, which could support the outreach activities of the Alliance as well as the realization of its objectives.
- ✓ Coordination of outreach to these institutions, in support of co-chairs.
- ✓ Development of workplans for the Steering and Advisory Committees, as appropriate

Contractual terms

The duration of the full-time contract will be 6 months starting the beginning of February 2023. The consultant will preferably work in the UNCCD offices in Bonn while remote work arrangement can also be considered. Travel expenses of the consultant will be organized and paid by the UNCCD separately. The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the entire contract period at the beginning of the assignment which will be discussed and agreed with the supervisors.

Requirements

- An advanced university degree in international relations, political science, public administration, natural resources management, rural development, geography, environmental policy, development economics or any other related field relevant for the consultancy. Project and/or policy experience in sustainable development and/or environmental protection.
- Excellent understanding of policy and technical aspects of sustainable development in the context of multilateralism.
- Experience on organization of conferences and meetings at the international level.
- Experience working with multiple stakeholders, particularly Governments, in a multilateral setting.
- Excellent writing in English skills is required.
- Fluency in English language, both written and oral 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

The following documents should be sent to staffing@unccd.int as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form¹ /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/23/C/01**.

The deadline for applications is **01 February 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: 23 January 2023

¹ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>