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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy Global Land Outlook Middle East and North Africa regional report

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/02**

#### Background

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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.

With only two percent of the world’s renewable water resources, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is one of the driest regions in the world and home to 12 of the world’s most water-scarce countries. Increasing temperatures and evapotranspiration rates, in addition to decreases in precipitation across the region, are making water resources even more scarce and exacerbating challenges to water and food security. Droughts and sand and dust storms are becoming more frequent and severe, spreading over larger areas, and jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of people.

It is estimated that more than 45% of the arable land in the MENA region is exposed to degradation and many countries will experience GDP losses of 20 percent by 2050 if land and water management policies and practices do not change. Extreme temperatures, severe droughts, floods and rising sea levels threaten infrastructures, agricultural production, economic development, health and livelihoods, and are likely to trigger forced migration and displacement. Beyond the direct impacts on communities and the environment, land degradation and water scarcity also change key determinants of state-society relations which govern the distribution of access to natural resources.

There is wide agreement that an integrated approach to managing and governing natural resources such as land, water, and energy can improve environmental, climate, human, and political security. However, few if any countries in the MENA region have made progress in implementing such an approach. Constraints include strong sectoral silos, insufficient incentives for integrated planning and policy making at all levels, and limited vision, knowledge, and practical experience to guide successful implementation of sustainable land management and restoration activities. A lack of empirical evidence of an integrated approach, which could demonstrate its benefits, further limits the political will needed for the development of adequate policies, incentives, and investment. See for example the GLO SADC Regional Report: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/southern-africa-leveraging-land-water-and-energy-nexus-sadc>

#### Objective of consultancy

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High quality, professionally written 65-75-page GLO MENA Regional Report (including a Summary for Decision Makers) that is comprehensively researched, fully referenced, and based on consultations with experts and key stakeholders, including:

- An introduction on the status and trends, and a persuasive rationale for integrated land and water management and restoration into national SDG, LDN, NDC, NBSAP, and related initiatives.
- An engaging narrative and vision containing regional, national, and context-specific entry points for governments, civil society and the private sector to invest and act, including examples



of good policy, investment, and practices that demonstrate how inclusive governance, gender equality, youth engagement, public-private partnerships and sustained finance can contribute to sustainable development objectives at national and sub-national levels.

- An inspiring presentation of the empirical evidence and success factors for integrated and water management, including a theory of change for the replication and/or scaling up of restoration projects and programmes.
- Infographics, figures, tables, maps, photos, and other graphic elements.
- Extensive references to both the peer-reviewed and grey literature.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of the Global Policy Advocacy and Regional Cooperation (GPARC) unit and direct supervision of the assigned officer, the consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Produce a 65–75-page (in final layout) GLO MENA Regional Report that features a high level situational analysis, including existing policy and investment frameworks for sustainable land and water management and restoration in the face of increasing human-induced land degradation and a rapidly changing climate.
- The GLO MENA Regional Report will include a preliminary feasibility study identifying opportunities for financing and implementing integrated management approaches that promote water security, climate adaptation, resilient livelihoods and other green growth and investment opportunities, including an assessment of status and trends, good practices and case studies, and governance/institutional capacities at the national level.
- The GLO MENA Regional Report will also include a brief Summary for Decision Makers clearly highlighting the challenges and opportunities for integrated planning and management practices that can be tailored to local circumstances for the benefit of people, nature, and climate. The Summary will feature evidence-based, policy-relevant recommendations for national and sub-national authorities with a focus on inclusive governance, land and water stewardship, regional cooperation and partnerships, and financing opportunities.
- The GLO MENA Regional Report will also consider the specific enabling environment for implementing existing restoration commitments and targets at the national level, including those contained in their LDN country reports, revised NDCs, emerging NBSAPs, SDGs, and other relevant action plans and programmes.
- Help organize virtual partner and stakeholder consultations and provide materials and support for the launch of the GLO MENA Regional Report.

### **Deliverables**

Key deliverables:

GLO MENA Regional Report of 65-75 pages (with Summary for Decision Makers and annexes as appropriate). The envisioned process is as follows:

- ✓ Develop a work plan, conduct desk research, and propose a structure for the report and brief
- ✓ 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 and brief (with graphics ready for layout)
- ✓ Help develop communications and other materials for launch event

### **Contractual terms**

The consultancy contract should start on 01 March 2023 with the delivery of all final outputs not later than 30 October 2023. The consultancy is home based. This is an individual contract and hired



consultant will be fully responsible for all deliverables. The payment will be done in two equal instalments. First instalment upon delivery of the first draft of the report and second instalment upon delivery of final deliverables.

### Requirements

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- Advanced university degree in land use planning, integrated land and water management, or other related subjects.
- Excellent understanding of the policy and technical aspects of integrated land and water 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 land and water components;
- A minimum of 15 years' experience is required;
- 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;
- Superior ability to communicate in English, both written and oral;
- Ability to meet agreed deadlines;
- Attention to detail. Fluency in English language, both written and oral is required.

### Special notice

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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

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The following documents should be sent to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>1</sup> /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/23/C/02**.

The deadline for applications is **25 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: 26 January 2023

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