



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy to develop supplementary guidelines for strengthening land-based targets (LDN TSP 2.0)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/05

Background

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)¹ is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The vision embraced by the Convention's 197 Parties in its 2018-2030 Strategic Framework² is for "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 consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The ambition expressed by countries to achieve this vision is significant: the international community has pledged to restore one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030, half of which are land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets.³ LDN⁴ offers a framework⁵ for optimizing land use and management decisions, and thus can help accelerate the achievement of multiple co-benefits, including biodiversity conservation and the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation can transform land from being a source of greenhouse gas emissions to a sink, by increasing carbon stocks in soils and vegetation. Furthermore, LDN plays a key role in strengthening the resilience of rural communities against climate shocks by securing and improving the provision of vital ecosystem services. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has documented,⁶ with high confidence, that policies promoting LDN – which is integral to SDG Target 15.3 – can also enhance food security, human wellbeing and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Since its launch in 2016 and as of December 2022, the LDN Target Setting Programme⁷ (LDN TSP) has supported a total of 129 participating countries, with 107 countries having successfully completed this voluntary process and 101 countries having already published its outcomes in the UNCCD website⁸. However, despite the substantial progress achieved to date, the findings of the Second Edition of the Global Land Outlook⁹ presented in 2022 clearly indicate that the global community needs to do more, faster and better in order to address the global crisis of land degradation in a timely manner. In this context and through various decisions¹⁰, COP 15 provided concrete guidance on LDN target setting by:

(i) Encouraging Parties which have already set targets to consider reviewing and refining them, ensuring that LDN targets are specific, time-bound, policy-coherent, quantitative, spatially explicit, gender-

¹ UNCCD website: <https://www.unccd.int/>

² UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-02/cop21add1_SF_EN.pdf

³ Goals and Commitments for the Restoration Decade: <https://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/goals-and-commitments-for-the-restoration-decade>

⁴ LDN overview: <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/land-degradation-neutrality/overview>

⁵ Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality:

https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2018-09/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf

⁶ IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL): <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

⁷ LDN Target Setting Programme: <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/land-degradation-neutrality/projects-programmes/ldn-target-setting>

⁸ UNCCD country profiles: <https://www.unccd.int/our-work/country-profiles>

⁹ Global Land Outlook 2: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/global-land-outlook/glo2>

¹⁰ COP15 Decisions: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/ICCD_COP%2815%29_23_Add.1-2208672E.pdf



responsive and adequately integrated into planning frameworks (decision 3/COP.15, para 1, decision 12/COP.15 para 1, and decision 13/COP.15 para 1);

(ii) Inviting Parties to explore complementarities between LDN targets, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and related planning, programming, reporting and monitoring in order to achieve the Convention's objectives (decision 8/COP.15, para 2); and

(iii) Requesting the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support Parties in reviewing and refining their voluntary LDN targets and in delineating their location and extent in order to ensure that they are quantifiable, spatially explicit and time-bound, in line with levels of national ambition (decision 11/COP.15, para 5a, and decision 12/COP.15 para 1); and also support the process of setting and/or refining voluntary LDN targets, streamlining it with other Convention and associated processes, and integrating these targets into (sub)national integrated land-use planning frameworks in those country Parties that may wish to engage in this process (decision 13/COP.15 para 6c);

Strengthening LDN targets and integrated land use planning frameworks will be key to support the enabling environment that countries need to close LDN implementation gaps and deliver a pipeline of programmes and projects that meet land-based targets and achieve a status of healthy and productive land in balance by 2030. This approach will improve joint implementation efforts among the Rio Conventions and make key contributions to multiple SDGs and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

For this purpose, the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and its partners have developed the second phase of the LDN TSP (2.0), which includes a GEF-funded Enabling Activity project to facilitate "Integrating Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) into land use planning frameworks to strengthen national UNCCD enabling environments" which will be rolled out in a coordinated manner in the same 15 countries to be selected by the UNCCD through an upcoming call for expressions of interest.

The LDN TSP 2.0 supplementary guidelines to be developed through this consultancy are meant to complement the existing technical guide for LDN target setting¹¹ and upcoming supplementary guidelines on integrating LDN into land use planning frameworks (to be developed through a separate consultancy) to provide new practical technical guidance for countries that wish to strengthen their land-based targets and ensure their land-based agendas can be financed to bring UNCCD policy and implementation efforts to the next level.

Objective of consultancy

The ultimate result of the service is producing: (i) the LDN TSP 2.0 supplementary guidelines, (ii) the related guidance notes for national consultants, and (iii) the related capacity building material for delivery at a workshop in Uzbekistan in October 2023, as the foundation for the subsequent roll out of LDN TSP 2.0 country processes in participating countries.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Coordinator of the LDN Programme, the direct supervision of the Team Lead of the LDN Target Setting Programme, in coordination with national specialists in gender mainstreaming and integrated land use planning, and in consultation with relevant officers of the UNCCD secretariat, the consultant will be responsible for the development of supplementary guidelines for strengthening land-based targets at national level, which will be a key reference document to guide country level work within and beyond the LDN TSP 2.0.

Following the COP 15 mandate and in line with the established LDN TSP 2.0 logic framework, the supplementary guidelines developed by the consultant must provide countries with relevant technically-sound guidance and practical recommendations, with a focus in the following key areas:

- Analysing and assessing the policy coherence of existing land-based commitments/targets and their complementarity and overlap at country level, and make specific recommendations for

¹¹ LDN TSP technical guide: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/ldn-target-setting-technical-guide>



improvement, including for future updating of LDN targets and measures, NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs (in coordination with national specialists in integrated land use planning).

- Undertaking comprehensive gender assessments that include specific recommendations on how to make LDN targets and measures more gender responsive at country level (in coordination with national specialists in gender mainstreaming).
- Assessing and making specific recommendations on how to make LDN targets and measures more quantitative, specific, time-bound, and spatially explicit.
- Undertaking gap analyses and making specific recommendations for improved delivery plans for implementation of land-based targets, with a focus on LDN and including estimated funding gaps (in coordination with national specialists in integrated land use planning).

The following duties and responsibilities are expected from the consultant:

1. Developing a work plan and tentative schedule for the development of the supplementary guidelines, and the related guidance notes and capacity building material.
2. Undertake a scientific and grey literature review of key papers, reports and other documents, including but not limited to the *Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN*¹², *Creating an Enabling Environment for LDN*¹³, the technical guide for LDN target setting, the briefing note on *Land Degradation Neutrality: Interventions to Foster Gender Equality*¹⁴, the *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL)*¹⁵, and the *Global Land Outlook, 2nd Edition*¹⁶ to inform the consultancy.
3. Supporting the establishment/functioning of an internal review committee to provide relevant reviews and inputs on an iterative manner to the subsequent versions of the supplementary guidelines being drafted.
4. Leading the writing and development of a proposed table of content, the zero draft, a first order draft and a final version of the supplementary guidelines in English that incorporate the feedback from the review committee.
5. Identify necessary elements, practical steps and recommendations in addressing the key areas mentioned above, including proposals for graphic elements (i.e., figures, tables, other visuals) to be considered by the editor and graphic designer for the online publishing of the supplementary guidelines.
6. Leading the writing and development of an internal guidance note document in English to guide the work of national consultants in implementing the supplementary guidelines at country level.
7. Developing related capacity building material in English and in PPT format for the training of national teams and delivering it at a global capacity building workshop for countries tentatively planned to be held in Uzbekistan on October 5th & 6th, 2023 back-to-back with CRIC 21.

Deliverables

Expected outputs will be discussed and agreed with the Coordinator of the LDN Programme, and the Team Lead of the LDN Target Setting Programme, and would include:

- ✓ Work plan and timeframe for deliverables, and proposed table of contents (by end February 2023)
- ✓ A zero draft of the supplementary guidelines (by end of March 2023)
- ✓ A first order draft of the supplementary guidelines (by mid-May 2023)
- ✓ A final draft of the supplementary guidelines (by end of June 2023)
- ✓ An internal guidance note document for national consultants (by mid-August 2023)
- ✓ PPT capacity building material for the training of national teams (by September 2023)

¹² Ibid, 5.

¹³ Creating an Enabling Environment for LDN: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/creating-enabling-environment-land-degradation-neutrality-its-potential>

¹⁴ Briefing note on LDN and gender: https://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid, 6.

¹⁶ Global Land Outlook, 2nd Edition: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-04/UNCCD_GLO2_low-res_2.pdf



- ✓ Delivery of a global capacity building workshop for participating countries in Uzbekistan and related workshop report (by October 5th & 6th, 2023, dates tbc)

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 8 months starting mid-February until October 2023. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by outputs. The consultancy is home-based. Travel of the consultant to attend the capacity building workshop in Uzbekistan on October 5-6th 2023 (exact dates to be confirmed) to be arranged separately by the Global Mechanism

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in Environmental Sciences, Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management, Land and Water Management, Earth Sciences, Geography, Global Change, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, or related disciplines
- A minimum of ten (10) years working experience related to natural resource management, integrated land/water management, climate change mitigation/adaptation and/or biodiversity conservation.
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD process and excellent conceptual understanding of land degradation, DLDD, LDN, and its interactions with climate change and biodiversity conservation.
- Familiarity with the CBD and UNFCCC processes and related policy development and implementation processes at country level is an asset.
- Strong research and analytical skills with demonstrated experience in technical writing for non-experts and/or science journalism in English (applicants should provide a link in their cover letter to a published example of a product authored by them and in which they effectively translated a highly technical topic into language accessible to non-expert).
- Solid experience in developing capacity building material and delivering training workshops in an international setting.
- Professional knowledge of English is required. Additional UN languages, particularly French or Spanish, 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

The following documents should be sent to staffing@unccd.int as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form¹⁷ /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/23/C/05**.

The deadline for applications is **19 February 2023**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

¹⁷ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>



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: 09 February 2023