



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant to Support RLO - LAC to map out potential partners and support with outreach activities

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/11

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.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have a wide range of private and public institutions which directly or indirectly address the issues related to the UNCCD as well as with the commitments assumed in September 2015, by the United Nations General Assembly which 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.

Indeed, given a quick look at the different regional organizations, it is possible to find at a national and regional levels, different institutions addressing the SDG's as well as soil degradation, drought, desertification, water, migration, gender, land tenure, food security, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management issues. However, there is no updated cadaster of them, which allows quick and easily, to have an overview, and at the same time specific, of the different institutions that deal with these issues.

On the other hand, the National Focal Points, the correspondents of Science and Technology and in general all the regional stakeholders, including civil society organizations, land users, private sector, and research centers, require the exchange of experiences or to know what functions and actions taking by other institutions in the region carry out in areas similar to those to which they develop their activities. In this way, a better knowledge is allowed for decision making as well as for the implementation of activities, avoiding duplication or repetition of efforts.

Hence, a systematization of information is required through a document aimed at supporting and strengthening dissemination and exchange among the stakeholders, thereby helping to comply with the decisions established at COP-15, and specifically those related to reduced desertification / land degradation and effects of drought in affected areas, as well as the promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention.

Objective of consultancy

Searching, compiling and systematizing the information of governments and institutions of the region related to the issues of land degradation and drought.



Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Chief Unit and the direct supervision of the Regional Liaison officer-LAC the consultant will search, compile and systematize the information of governments and institutions of the region related to the issues of land degradation and drought, including in particular:

1. Prepare a complete cadaster of the organizations with responsibilities on drought and land degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean as a region as well at country level. The report must cover as much as possible all Latin-American and Caribbean countries.
2. These organizations must include national and/or international public development and financial agencies, special programmes, private sector organizations, foundations, academia, and organizations from the civil society.
3. The report should order the agencies and organizations according to the following criteria.
 - Country (or countries) where they operate and subnational presence.
 - Type of organization (Public, Private, Academia, NGO, others)
 - Origin: National, International
 - Main purpose(s) and activities (Public Policies, Special programs, financial issues, technical assistance, research, others).
 - Territorial coverage
 - Permanent presence and/or for emergencies
 - Size: number of employees
 - Internal structure (Divisions, Departments, etc., and authorities)
 - Contact or resource persons (institution)
 - Projects and programs under implementation and previous (contact person or Project manager)
4. Possible overlaps internally and among institutions
5. Perform other duties as requested.

Deliverables

Expected outputs will be discussed and agreed with the Regional Liaison Officer on a monthly basis based on the proposed work plan and the results and achieved, including:

- A complete report identifying all or most of the organizations related to land degradation, drought and desertification issues. (Latin America and the Caribbean)
- An executive summary.
- A Power Point presentation.
- A regional meeting with NFPs to disseminate the results.

Contractual terms

The duration of the full-time contract will be 05 months starting mid-March 2023. The consultant will work remotely. 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. 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

- Advanced university degree in land use disciplines (agronomist, forest engineer, etc), environmental engineering, natural resource management, or related disciplines.



- A minimum of 10 years working experience related to natural resource management and in international institutions. A good knowledge of the country and regional institutions.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time
- Knowledge of English and Spanish is required. Additional UN languages, particularly French 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 Form¹ /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/23/C/11**.

The deadline for applications is **12 March 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: 27 February 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>