



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Consultant - Regional Policy and Advocacy

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/22

Background

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and land degradation, and to mitigate the effects of drought (DLDD) in affected countries around the world, through effective action at all levels.

Established in 1994, the UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The functions of the secretariat are, among others, (a) to make arrangements for sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its Subsidiary Bodies established under the Convention and to provide them with services as required; (b) to compile and transmit reports submitted to it; (c) to facilitate assistance to affected developing country Parties, on request, particularly those in Africa, in the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention; (d) to coordinate its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions.

Regional Liaison Offices (RLOs) are a part of, and under the direct supervision/coordination of the Global Policy, Advocacy and Regional Cooperation Unit (GPARC) of the UNCCD secretariat Headquarters based in Bonn. The basic functions of GPARC, including all RLOs, are the framing of relevant and persuasive policy messages and the delivery of related strategic advocacy on issues of desertification, land degradation, and drought; building partnerships with key stakeholders – governments, civil society and the private sector - to enhance cooperation and collaboration in the implementation of the Convention; the coordination of the programme of work of the UNCCD institutions at the regional, sub regional and national levels; and the facilitation of effective communications between country Parties and headquarters.

Specifically, the work of RLOs includes, *inter alia*,

Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

- Establish strong partnerships with other organizations including UN bodies, subregional organizations, development partners and non-governmental organizations in the region and facilitate the conclusion of partnership agreements for the implementation of the Convention at the regional level;
- Advise on the latest regional developments and trends regarding opportunities for partnerships and resource mobilization.

Regional Policy and Coordination

- Foster and coordinate opportunities and messages for policy dialogue between the countries in the region, organizations and decision-making bodies at national and regional level including support to bilateral, regional and international agencies to implement Convention program/workplan;

Representation and Advocacy

- Lead UNCCD's presence in the Region including carrying out high level representation with Ministers and other national and regional authorities;
- Undertake outreach and awareness raising efforts, in line with an agreed strategy, at the national, sub-regional and regional level;



Annex V comprises fifteen country parties from the CEE region.
Annex II comprises over fifty country parties across six subregions.

Objective of consultancy

The objective of this assignment is to support the UNCCD RLOs work by Completing the country profiles, Contributing to CRIC-21 preparations, providing concise analysis reports on the situation with DLDD in both regions, assisting in planning and organizing a series of events such as policy dialogues, webinars, workshops.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the Global Policy, Advocacy and Regional Coordination (GPARC) unit Chief and working directly with the assigned officers, the incumbent will be responsible for assisting the RLOs for Annexes II and V of the Convention (CEE, Asia and particularly Central Asia) by performing the following tasks:

Policy support

- Develop and update, with substantive and concise data, country profiles as well as multi-country, regional or sub-regional concept notes related to UNCCD activities.
- Provide regular and accurate analysis of the latest political, economic, and environmental news in the regions with potential implications on the implementation of the UNCCD and the process of engaging relevant stakeholders.
- Initiate and/or provide substantive inputs to policy papers, speaking notes, speech, technical briefs and press releases on topical issues addressed by the Convention, including DLDD, land tenure, gender, urban-rural linkages, migration and others.
- Support the mapping and development of profiles of key stakeholders and potential partners for UNCCD implementation (relevant organisations, agencies, institutions, groups or individuals) at the national, subregional and/or regional levels.

Research and knowledge management

- Assist with the collection, analysis, and targeted dissemination of data on land degradation in the regions, identifying potential gaps and strategies to address them.
- Gathering key inputs, ideas, arguments and evidence from literature, scientific articles, policies, best practices, news articles, position statements and other means to collecting tangible data, 'success stories' and relevant case studies.
- Provide expertise and support research on the differentiated approaches to land degradation management, drought awareness and impacts of DLDD.

Awareness-raising and outreach

- Support with outreach activities, provide assistance in organizing virtual and in-person meetings with country-Parties and stakeholders.
- Contribute to communications and awareness raising activities (visual communications, print, online media, etc.).
- Coordinate the planning and delivery of events such as policy dialogues, webinars, workshops.

Other

Assist the unit and the RLOs in the preparation for CRIC (October 2023, Uzbekistan) with a special focus on Central Asia and raising the profile of the subregion.

Deliverables

The consultant will develop an overall workplan at the beginning of the assignment outlining the specific outputs and their timelines for delivery, which will be discussed and agreed with the supervisors at the UNCCD.

Key deliverables are:



- ✓ Completing the country profiles
- ✓ Contributing to CRIC-21 preparations
- ✓ Providing concise analysis reports on the situation with DLDD in both regions
- ✓ Assisting in planning and organizing a series of events such as policy dialogues, webinars, workshops.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 08 months (part-time) during the period from May 2023 until end December 2023 with possible extension subject to satisfactory progress in the preparatory activities identified under this term of reference. Consultancy is home based with virtual meetings. Start date: as soon as possible. Travel is envisaged during the tenure of the consultancy and will be organized and paid separately.

All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in geography, environmental studies, social sciences, politics, international relations, law, public administration, geography, economics, natural resources management, or another field relevant for consultancy. A combination of relevant academic qualifications and extensive experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.
- At least 3 years of relevant experience in geopolitical analysis within the context of land/natural resource use and land management.
- Excellent understanding of regional political, economic, and environmental situation
- Substantial knowledge of land degradation and other environmental issues
- Substantial record of research and publications, including non-scientific communications.
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD, related UN and intergovernmental processes, and environment-related policy issues would be a great asset. Experience in working with UNCCD stakeholders in the regions is an asset.
- Excellent writing skills and fluency in English and Russian languages are required. Knowledge of another UN official language would be an advantage.

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/22**.

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



The deadline for applications is **26 April 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. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 06 April 2023