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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy for Technology Mapping GGW China

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/61**

#### **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, particularly in Africa, 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 Global Mechanism (GM) is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought.

The Global Mechanism is currently steering several activities related to the Green Great Wall Initiative. The Great Green Wall (GGW) was launched in 2007 under the leadership of the African Union and Pan-African Agency of the GGW. It aims to restore Africa's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in one of the world's poorest regions, the Sahel.

In recent years, the GGW vision has evolved into an integrated ecosystem management approach, striving for a mosaic of different land use and production systems. Hence the GGW should be understood as a strategic comprehensive national development plan focusing not only on environmental protection but also combining economic and social dimensions and ensuring synergies among the various existing policies and programs that contribute to its strategy and goals.

The Government of China and UNCCD collaborations exist strongly and voluntary contributions from China have been provided to support further activities of the Convention. In that regard, the achievement, knowledge, and experiences of China gained in the field of combating desertification over half a century are important sources of knowledge for ecosystem restoration and regeneration of sustainable livelihood. The challenges experienced in China were similar to the current situation in the Sahel GGW regions. More importantly, the achievement gained in China is what the GGW Initiative in the Sahel wants.

Between November 2021 and January 2022, eight of the eleven GGW Sahel countries responded to a survey which enquired about their needs for technical assistance to advance the implementation of the GGW initiative. They were asked to self-assess their perceived urgency of receiving technical assistance according to 11 different categories of possible support. When asked to list their top priority areas of technical assistance to advance the implementation of the GGW in their respective country, the following major themes surfaced:

- Support to develop national data platforms related to GGW activities.
- Support to foster the dialogue among GGW stakeholders at national, regional and local level
- Support for project identification and preparation
- Knowledge of priorities, procedures and requirements of financial partners
- Institutional strengthening and capacity development of the national GGW agency, including through technical equipment.



In this regard, the experiences from China's land restoration initiative 'The Three-North Shelterbelt Program (TNSP) may prove to be helpful in achieving the GGW Sahel objectives. Indeed, technology can lift the burden of tree planting, soil productivity, boost water use efficiency and speed up the whole process of restoration.

### **Objective of consultancy**

The UNCCD is seeking to hire a GGW Consultant for a mapping of the GGW China technologies to identify tailored technologies for the benefit of the countries in the GGW Sahel. The deliverables of this study will increase the visibility of China's support to the GGWI and strengthen South-South cooperation. This aims to support the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) in its efforts to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought in the region. The consultant will provide technical expertise and support to the study team, which will consist of both UNCCD, GGW China and GGW Sahel staff, as well as relevant stakeholders in the region.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the UNCCD Global Mechanism and the direct supervision of the Senior Project Officer, the consultant will research, write, and produce a strategy based on the standards listed below:

1. General overview of the Great Green Wall China initiative over the different stages and phases so far, including the achievements and limitations.
2. Extensive review of the existing literature on the technologies used in GGW China and the implications for the environment, society and economy.
3. Identification of the technologies that could be tailored to adapt to the GGW Sahel, including best practices, lessons learned etc.
4. Creation of a coherent plan for how the technologies need to be adapted to suit the GGW Sahel. This should include an elaboration of the resources necessary to implement the technologies in the Sahel.
5. Creation of a booklet or toolkit on the technologies and how they can be suited for the GGW Sahel including recommendations to strengthen South-South cooperation.
6. Strategy for how the booklet/toolkit can further be shared for an increase in visibility.
7. Identification of main gaps in technology in the GGW Sahel when compared to the GGW China.
8. Provide technical guidance and support to the study team on the transfer of technologies to the GGW Sahel.
9. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders in the region, including governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector, to ensure the study's findings are relevant, practical, and actionable.

### **Responsibilities:**

The GGW Consultant's primary responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

- Conducting a comprehensive review of existing scientific and grey literature, key papers, reports, digital data and tools and data on technologies used in the GGW China
- Conducting consultations with local universities in China or other relevant stakeholders, relevant regional bodies to collect data, map out the technologies used in GGW China and identify the tailored technologies that can be adapted for the GGW Sahel.
- Leading the development of the booklet/toolkit, technical reports, and recommendations.



- Collaborating with the stakeholders to ensure the study's findings are relevant, practical, and actionable.
- Providing technical expertise and support to the study team on the transfer of technologies from GGW China to the Sahelian countries.
- Representing the UNCCD at relevant meetings, conferences, and workshops related to the task.

Providing regular progress reports to the study team and UNCCD management.

### Deliverables

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- A report providing the current state of technologies used in the GGW Sahel and the technologies used in GGW China including a Strategy/plan on how and which technologies from GGW China can be adapted to suit the GGW Sahel.
- A Booklet/toolkit depicting the transferrable technologies and how they can benefit the GGW Sahel.

### Contractual terms

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated for the period of 03 months, part time to be started as soon as possible. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by output. The consultancy is home based.

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

### Requirements

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- ✓ Advanced degree university degree (Engineer, Master's or PhD) in a relevant field of environment; agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, restoration technologies or related fields.
- ✓ A minimum of ten years of experience in natural resources management, land and ecosystem restoration, climate change, with a strong analytical and writing skills.
- ✓ Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages
- ✓ Digital skills in design and preparation of toolkits or booklets.
- ✓ Fluency in both, oral and written, English and Mandarin 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/61**.

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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>



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The deadline for applications is **03 August 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.

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