



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: Senior Expert (Landscape and Mine Restoration)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/84

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 seeks to support countries to address Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD). (www.unccd.int)

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is the annual international forum for the governments of 19 industrialized countries and the European Union (EU). The G20 Leaders' Declaration, issued in November 2020, launched the "Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats" (G20 Global Land Initiative). Building on existing initiatives and on a voluntary basis, the G20 countries share the ambition to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in the amount of degraded land by 2040.

The G20 Global Land Initiative, with oversight from UNCCD, will focus on building capacity, engaging the private sector, empowering civil society and showcasing success. Engagement with the private sector, including in relation to mining, agriculture and forestry, will be key to encourage support for land restoration efforts and the adoption of sustainable land management practices.

The Initiative Coordination Office is looking for a senior expert on landscape and mine restoration to support the Initiative. The Director, under the oversight of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, manages the Initiative Coordination Office (ICO). The senior expert will report directly to the Programme Officer – Stakeholder Engagement.

Objective of consultancy

The result of these activities is a culmination of a dynamic and collaborative ecosystem where private sector expertise and resources complement public and nonprofit efforts, ultimately leading to more effective, sustainable, and impactful land restoration and terrestrial habitat conservation projects.

Duties and responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the Director of the G20 Global Land Initiative, and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, the Consultant is expected to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Identify and engage with key private sector partners, particularly from global mining industry organizations and experts around the world, with the goal to prepare guidance on best practices to fill the gaps in knowledge and skills and advise efforts for land restoration and terrestrial habitat conservation.

- Identify and foster relationships with pivotal stakeholders in the global mining industry, including prominent organizations and renowned experts from around the world. Establish enduring connections with credible mining industry entities and influential specialists dedicated to ecological restoration and sustainable mining practices.
- Execute an exhaustive assessment to pinpoint precise voids in knowledge and competencies within the mining sector's ongoing efforts in land restoration and habitat conservation. Analyze



existing best practices to identify opportunities for a comprehensive guidance matrix that can effectively address these knowledge and skills gaps and provide actionable recommendations for sustainable practices.

- Disseminate the guidance matrix through workshops, conferences, and digital platforms and implement the recommendations in collaboration with industry partners, experts, and advocates. Enable the building of capacities and knowledge transfer across industry, academia, and grassroots communities. Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of implemented practices, fostering a cycle of improvement and adaptation.
- Collaborate with relevant United Nations as well as other agencies, professional bodies, and non-governmental organizations that also actively champion post-mining and nature-based solutions to integrate land restoration initiatives into their ongoing activities and extensive networks.

2. Organize training, events and workshops spanning international, regional and national levels on post-mining land restoration and terrestrial habitat conservation, further enriched by the discerning selection of seasoned global training collaborators.

- Develop a comprehensive schedule of training programs, workshops, and events on post-mining land restoration and terrestrial habitat conservation. Tailor these initiatives to cater to international, regional, and national audiences for effective knowledge dissemination.
- Identify and collaborate with globally recognized training partners with extensive experience in the fields of land restoration and ecological conservation. Forge partnerships to ensure the delivery of high-quality, impactful training sessions that align with best practices and industry standards.
- Organize webinars or international forums that bring together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to exchange insights and lessons learned in land restoration. Facilitate cross-border knowledge sharing and foster a sense of collective responsibility towards the restoration of mining-impacted areas.
- Engage actively in pertinent technical workshops, side events, and exhibitions focusing on post-mining restoration during events organized by the G20 Presidencies.
- Conduct regional workshops/training programs that address specific challenges and opportunities related to land restoration and habitat conservation within distinct geographic contexts and encourage collaboration and the exchange of region-specific best practices among neighboring countries.
- Collaborate with national authorities and organizations to establish tailored training initiatives that align with each country's specific restoration needs and environmental policies. Leverage local expertise to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of training programs.
- Establish long-term collaboration between institutions in India, Germany and other countries on mine restoration and assess their institutional capacity. Collaborate with the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Dehradun to craft and implement research-driven training initiatives aimed at countries in the Global South.

3. Discover and establish meaningful connections with private sector companies specializing in consultancies and practical nature-based solutions for land restoration.

- Conduct comprehensive market research to identify private sector companies with expertise in consultancies and nature-based solutions for land restoration. Evaluate the range of services, solutions, and track record of identified companies to ensure alignment with project goals.
- Establish strategic partnerships with selected private sector firms that demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainable land restoration. Collaborate closely to leverage their expertise and resources for the global restoration community through webinars and other media.
- Establish a structured framework for continuous learning by creating advanced training



modules that delve into specialized areas of land restoration and conservation and address specific needs and challenges in the restoration process. Encourage professionals to build expertise over time and contribute to the refinement of best practices.

- Collaborate with private sector firms to develop capacity-building programs that enhance local expertise in land restoration practices. Design workshops dedicated to monitoring and evaluating the progress of land restoration efforts, emphasizing data-driven decision-making. Facilitate and equip participants with tools and methodologies to assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies.
- Establish platforms for knowledge exchange between private sector partners and relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.
- Contribute to the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative ideas for the G20 Global Land Initiative's communications channels, including in the form of monthly newsletters, news articles and social media.
- Provide support to the Programme Officer on project planning and implementation.
- Represent the G20 Global Land Initiative in relevant international and regional fora upon request from the Programme Officer and the Director.

Deliverables

- ✓ Comprehensive guidance for the mining industry that includes information, best practices and recommendations to fill the gaps in knowledge and skills and advise efforts for land restoration and terrestrial habitat conservation (to be developed and published by December 2023)
- ✓ Collection of case studies that showcases successful land restoration achievements resulting from private-sector collaboration (by December 2023)
- ✓ Organization of a roundtable or forum focusing on post-mining land restoration in collaboration with key partners, scheduled for a minimum of 2 days (to be held between January and May 2024)
- ✓ Planning and organization of a long-term training programme on Post-Mining Land Restoration for G20 countries that addresses specific challenges and opportunities within distinct geographic contexts (first session to be held between May and August 2024)
- ✓ Webinars centred on post-mining land restoration strategies, fostering a continuous exchange of knowledge and discourse (at least two between November 2023 and July 2024)
- ✓ Advocacy materials that highlight the role of private sector companies in promoting sustainable land restoration and driving broader industry engagement, including content for websites and social media (once per quarter)
- ✓ List and assessment of key private sector companies and consultants specializing in land restoration and nature-based solution (to be updated every quarter)
- ✓ Well-structured engagement plans and mission reports, offering transparent insight into the G20 Global Land Initiative's active involvement and contributions (for each distinct process or event)

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 110 working days within 11 months and starting mid-October 2023. The consultancy is home-based, however, if needed to travel on missions, travel will be paid for and organized separately.

Requirements

- ✓ A master's degree in Geography, Social Sciences, Engineering or Management, on social issues linked to land management or environment sector.



- ✓ At least 10 years of international experience in land management and/or environmental sector.
- ✓ Good written and oral communication skills in English. Excellent networking skills.

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 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/84**.

The deadline for applications is **17 October 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 September 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>