



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: Senior Expert on Land Restoration

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/85

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 in addressing 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 on Sunday, 22 November 2020, launched a "Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats". Building on existing initiatives and on a voluntary basis, the G20 countries share the ambition to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the amount of degraded land by 2040.

The G20 Global Land Initiative (G20 GLI), with oversight from UNCCD, will focus on building capacity, engaging the private sector, empowering civil society and showcasing success. The Director, under the oversight of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, manages the Initiative Coordination Office (ICO). The ICO is currently looking to hire 5 senior technical experts on land restoration and other fields of expertise, who can support the Initiative by providing expert advice on various activities being undertaken by the ICO.

Objective of consultancy

The consultants will perform research analysis on a variety of topics linked to and addressing land restoration challenges. The consultants will ideally become members of the Scientific Advisory Panel established to provide guidance and the studies will be done in consultation with UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and other relevant actors.

Duties and responsibilities

1. Perform research analysis on a variety of topics linked to and addressing land restoration challenges.
2. Provide expert's input to help shaping effective land restoration policies and strategies.
3. Revise and provide input to existing articles drafted by the ICO or related agents, as well as copy editing and revision of materials, in order to ensure output accuracy and scientific rigor. Ensuring that papers and articles meet rigorous scientific standards, rectifying errors and enhancing their trustworthiness and precision.
4. Review the scientific studies being commissioned by the Initiative Coordination Office and provide inputs.
5. Assist the ICO with review of external projects and restoration practices so as to share and showcase them on the Global Restoration Information Hub.
6. Become members of the Scientific Advisory Panel established to provide guidance and the studies will be done in consultation with UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and other relevant actors.



7. Act as expert members of various competitions being planned by the ICO.
8. Participate in training programmes being organised by the ICO, in association with the partners, and share experience and knowledge.
9. Represent the G20 Global Land Initiative as experts in external meetings in their respective domain upon request of the ICO.
10. Link up the ICO to external networks where the Senior Expert has membership or association.
11. Participate in periodic meetings, both online and in person, of the senior technical experts to review past activities and define future activities.
12. Any other support mutually agreed with the Director of the ICO.

Deliverables

1. Monthly summary progress report with updates on the work undertaken.
2. Mission reports after individual missions.
3. Reports on any project undertaken.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 20 working days within 11 months and to be started beginning of November 2023. The consultancy is home- based, however, if needed to travel on missions, travel will be paid for and organized separately.

Requirements

- ✓ A minimum of master's in agriculture, Arts, Forestry, Ecology, Science, Arts, Engineering or Management is required.
- ✓ At least 20 years of international experience in the field of environment, sustainable development, land restoration, or similar, are required.
- ✓ Applicants should possess extensive experience in conducting research analysis encompassing a range of subjects related to addressing challenges in land restoration.
- ✓ Proven track record in analysing data, producing research reports, and presenting findings to diverse audiences is required.
- ✓ Experience working with governmental agencies, NGOs, international organizations, or private sector partners is desirable.
- ✓ Previous experience in working in the United Nations is desirable.
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills are required.
- ✓ Excellent networking skills are required.
- ✓ Leadership and team management skills are required.
- ✓ Fluency in English language, both oral and written, is required.

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/85**.

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>