



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: Senior Finance Specialist to contribute to the development of the UNCCD Financial Needs Assessment

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/15

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).

At the UNCCD COP13, countries agreed (decision 7/COP.13) on a new global roadmap to address land degradation. The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework includes a set of 5 Strategic Objectives (SO) adopted to guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2018–2030. The Strategic Objective 5 (SO5), in particular, aims at mobilizing substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level.

As the operational arm of the Convention, the Global Mechanism supports countries in translating the Convention into action. We are mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of resources. We aim to be small but agile team catalyzing solutions that are relevant to country Parties and that deliver transformative and tangible benefits to their people and landscapes.

Objective of consultancy

To develop the UNCCD Needs Assessment as requested by Decision 13/COP 15 based on the inputs from the contributing authors.

Duties and responsibilities

As part of the Global Mechanism's efforts to assist Parties in the mobilization of resources, Decision 13/COP.15 requests the Global Mechanism to develop a methodology and conduct a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention, building on national reporting, voluntary targeting-setting exercise and other relevant processes.

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and reporting to the assigned Programme officer, the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Lead the preparation of the main report on the UNCCD needs assessment based on the contributions from several authors, including the writing of content.
- Develop a policy brief based on the needs assessment and contribute to the development of official documents related to the upcoming UNCCD COP 16.
- Lead the analytical work on the estimates and analysis of the financial resource gap to achieve the objectives of the Convention, based on the assessed work on required investment and current expenditure carried out by the contributing authors to the main report.
- Contribute to the content of the main report by drafting potential solutions for closing the financial gap, recommendations, and the way forward.



- Lead the development of tenure and gender content within the needs assessment, including the development of the respective investment case as well as providing methodological inputs on these matters.
- Contribute to meetings of the needs assessment as requested.
- To perform other related tasks linked to the needs assessment as necessary.

Deliverables

The consultancy envisions the following outputs:

- Delivery of the UNCCD needs assessment main report, including content such as the finance gap, recommendations and way forward.
- Production of a Policy Brief or SDM of the UNCCD needs assessment.
- Delivery of content for the official documents related to the needs assessment.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be 08 months. This contract is home-based, and payment is upon received deliverables. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

The consultant must be in possession of all the equipment and software necessary to conduct this work. The UNCCD will not purchase any equipment. Candidates are kindly requested to specify in their applications the software and equipment that will be used to carry out this assignment.

Requirements

- ✓ Advanced university degree in finance, environmental economics, agricultural economics, natural resource economics, or related disciplines.
- ✓ A minimum of 7 years working experience related to relevant areas of expertise such as financing for development.
- ✓ Expert knowledge on finance for sustainable development and related areas.
- ✓ Strong writing skills.
- ✓ Strong analytical skills.
- ✓ Excellent communication (writing, presentation).
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time.
- ✓ Knowledge of the UNCCD or related Convention processes.
- ✓ Knowledge of English is required. Knowledge of additional UN languages 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 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/24/C/15**.

The deadline for applications is **17 March 2024**. 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 : 29 February 2024

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