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## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **International consultant for Peace Forest Initiative (PFI) operational support**

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/21**

#### **Background**

The Global Mechanism 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. As the operational arm of the convention, the Global Mechanism (GM) supports countries to translate the Convention into action.

Land and forest degradation in conflict areas is an emerging concern for the global community. Globally, around 1.8 billion people – over 20 per cent of the world's population – live in fragile, conflict-affected countries. The long-term negative effects on communities are exacerbated by their vulnerability and undermine their resilience to climate-related disasters, such as extreme heat, droughts, and floods. People in conflict areas are considered the most vulnerable and frequently suffer from a lack of basic needs (e.g. food, clean water, fuel) traditionally obtained from the land and forest.

Prolonged conflict is a significant root cause of degradation of natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide. Conflict has both direct and indirect impacts on land. It can directly destroy land and forest through physical damage, such as soil erosion and contamination when people are forced to use land and forest resources unsustainably. Scarcity of basic needs tends to drive people to overexploit already depleted natural resources which can lead to irreversible land degradation or desertification. In most conflict areas, there are little or no governance, institutions or policies to help effectively avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation. This increases the risk of land and environmental degradation in post-conflict areas. Poor governance, combined with limited access to natural resources (e.g. forest and pasture lands), is often seen as a primary driver and amplifying factor in a given conflict situation. There is an urgent need for interventions to protect environmental assets in conflict and post-conflict areas.

Sustainable land management (SLM) is a powerful measure to protect people from the loss and damage caused by land degradation. Land degradation neutrality (LDN) provides a flexible tool for integrating policymaking in the pursuit of multiple environmental and socioeconomic objectives. LDN actions can safeguard rural communities by providing ecosystem services, including clean water, food, biomass fuel, animal fodder and jobs, and thus improve the living conditions of local communities affected by land degradation.

The Peace Forest Initiative (PFI), launched during the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties of the UNCCD in 2019, aims to promote joint actions and cross-border cooperation on land and forest restoration under the LDN approach while building confidence and peace in conflict affected areas. The UNCCD secretariat will play a central role in promoting and operationalizing the PFI through partnership building, noting its potential contribution to increasing cooperation on LDN, including land restoration and reforestation in transborder areas in participating countries. LDN (SDG 15.3) can be effectively linked to the SDG 16 (peace and security) through PFI.

In September 2017, the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the COP emphasized the critical role of LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) for the implementation of the Convention. This has been reaffirmed at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019. The GM will provide PFI participating countries with assistance in formulating transformative projects and programmes to realize the vision of PFI to promote building confidence and peace.



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### Objective of consultancy

Revised Projects/programmes related documents (Project idea notes, Project Concept Notes, full project proposals, gender analysis and action plan, environmental and social analysis). Briefings and guidance on how to access existing and innovative financing mechanisms, adapted to each project/programme.

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### Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Initiative Coordinator, the consultant will be responsible to support the activities implemented by the PFI Team. Specifically, the consultant will be responsible for the following duties:

- Support the development of large-scale, multi-country, regional/sub-regional/national, gender-responsive project/programme concept notes and documents in the area of DLDD aligning with the requirements of the targeted funding source and/or support gender mainstreaming in those projects/programme concept notes/ documents in the context of PFI's vision and approach;
- Support development of project/programme concept notes and documents, in consultation with national and (sub)regional stakeholders working on the ground, which may entail drafting, reviewing and revising the initial concept notes prepared by local consultants if any and partners including authorities, compile and review project concepts notes prepared by other partners, and review and revise project documents and required technical annexes including project budgets, workplans and gender action plans among others in accordance with the requirements of the targeted funding source.
- Facilitate communication between national consultants if any, and international and national stakeholders including experts, private sector as well as getting inputs from local authorities.
- Identify and map relevant past, ongoing and planned projects and initiatives and define gaps to ensure synergies, gender responsiveness, and avoid duplication,;
- Identify key gaps that need to be addressed to have a more developed concept note and taking into account LDN features in line with the scientific conceptual framework for LDN (e.g. LDN features checklist), National Drought Plans and the Peace Forest Initiative (PFI);
- Ensure synergies with other sectors as well as national commitments including, but not limited to, contribution to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Biodiversity Targets, and relevant national and (sub) regional development plans and strategies among others;
- Provide expert advice and guidance on potential sources of funding and the financial structuring including co-financing and blended financing, as well as private sector;
- Provide support to organizing relevant meetings, workshops and trainings.
- Perform any other related activities required to achieve the goals and objectives of the GM team

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### Deliverables

Key deliverables are:

- ✓ Quarterly workplan highlighting countries to be supported on the PFI/TPP processes and deliverables. The first workplan will be submitted after the first meeting with the GM lead. Subsequent workplans for the next quarter should be submitted during the last week of the previous quarter after a meeting with the GM lead
- ✓ Draft or final concept notes with inputs and comments incorporated by the last day of every month
- ✓ Quarterly progress report highlighting specific inputs, reviews and other support provided to project concept notes and proposals assigned. Progress reports should be submitted 2 weeks after the last day of the completed quarter.
- ✓ Final report.

All submissions are to be made electronically using email in the language of the concept note or proposal.

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### Contractual terms



The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 12 months (part-time), starting as soon as possible, subject to satisfactory progress in the preparatory activities identified under this term of reference. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by output. The consultancy is home based, part-time. Women are encouraged to apply.

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

### Requirements

- Advanced university degree in environmental finance, environmental science, agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, environmental economics, business development and management, public policy or related fields.
- A minimum of ten years of experience in natural resources management, project development, development finance, climate finance, blended finance.
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on project development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: sustainable land and water management, forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate-smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, water resources management, renewable energy etc.;
- First-hand experience in producing project documents for the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and Multilateral Development Bank (writing sample may be requested as part of the assessment) is a strong asset.
- Experience with private sector stakeholders and gender mainstreaming is an asset.
- Fluency in English both oral and written is required. Fluency in another UN language is 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 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](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/24/C/21**.

The deadline for applications is **27 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. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 20 March 2024

<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>