



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy – Faith Stock-take and Action Plan Consultant

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/35

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. (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. 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) focuses on building capacity, engaging the private sector, empowering civil society and showcasing success. Engaging with all stakeholders in land restoration efforts is crucial to promote inclusivity and sustainability as well as the ownership and empowerment of local communities and stakeholders, who can bring unique perspectives, knowledge, resources and solutions to the table and ensure their needs and rights are respected and accounted for in the process.

Faith-based organizations and religious communities are important stakeholders to help scale global restoration efforts. Globally, faith-based institutions own approximately 8 percent of habitable land and more than 50 percent of educational institutions. Their sizeable reach and influence well positions them as key players in the global restoration efforts. Seeing this potential, the G20 GLI wishes to mobilize, strengthen and scale up global faith efforts on restoration.

The G20 GLI is seeking an experienced consultant to develop a long-term action plan and coordinate the Faith Stock-take, which will assess the current landscape of faith-based restoration activities. The consultant will provide evidence-based insights to inform future strategies, highlighting the significant contributions of faith communities to restoration efforts. A Working Group on faith and land restoration will be established to guide and support the planning and delivery process. The consultant will report directly to the Programme Officer – Stakeholder Engagement.

Objective of consultancy

The consultant will support the G20 GLI with assessing the current landscape of faith communities' involvement in ecosystem and land restoration, highlighting case studies, success stories and potential for future action. Under the coordination and organization efforts of the consultant, the outcomes of the Stock-take will be discussed during a meeting of key executives from faith institutions in late 2024 and will inform the development of a long-term engagement strategy (2025-2040) and implementation workplan (2025-2026), which will guide activities for engaging faith communities in land restoration efforts.



Duties and responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Programme Officer – Stakeholder Engagement and overall guidance of the Director of the G20 GLI, the Faith Stock-take and Action Plan Consultant is expected to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Faith Stock-take – 25 days

- Conduct research and outreach to faith institutions and actors to take stock and map faith communities' involvement in ecosystem and land restoration.
- Analyze the collected data to identify any trends, challenges and opportunities.
- Produce a report highlighting case studies, success stories, and potential for action.
- Coordinate a team of UN Volunteers and Faith Working Group members to review the report.
- Review the design and layout of the report and communications materials in coordination with the G20 GLI communications team.
- Organize a launch event for the report in the fourth quarter of 2024.
- Promote the Stock-take and G20 GLI in external meetings with other partners.

2. Long-term Action Plan Development - 10 days

- Develop a long-term engagement strategy (2025-2040) as well as an implementation workplan (2025-2026), both of which align with the strategy and workplan of the G20 GLI and the principles of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and take into account inputs from the Working Group members and relevant stakeholders.
- Prepare proposed outputs and activities, key performance indicators, timelines, budget, key implementation partners under the implementation workplan 2025-2026.
- Provide G20 GLI with regular updates on programming.
- Represent the Working Group and G20 GLI in external meetings with other partners where necessary.

3. Coordination for the Faith Executives Meeting in Bonn – 15 days

- Identify and map key executives and advisors from faith institutions to invite to a meeting in Bonn in September 2024 to discuss the outcomes from the Stock-take and mobilize support for the G20 GLI activities and ambitions.
- Develop agenda and programming in line with Stock-take outcomes and G20 GLI priorities.
- Coordinate outreach to faith executives and advisors and logistics for the meeting.
- Facilitate the meeting and develop a post-meeting report.

4. Represent the G20 GLI in relevant international and regional meetings upon request from the Programme Officer and the Director – 10 days

- Organize events and meetings at international conferences, including at the COPs of the Rio Conventions, with other interested parties.
- Assist the communications team in drafting news articles, blog posts, promotional material, research, and other related tasks.

Deliverables

1. A Faith Stock-Take report and launch event
2. A long-term engagement strategy (2025-2040) as well as an implementation workplan (2025-2026), for engaging faith communities in ecosystem and land restoration efforts, ensuring their continued participation and contribution to the achievement of global restoration goals
3. Planning and programming coordination for a Faith Executives Meeting in September 2024, bringing together key executives and advisors of faith institutions to discuss the draft outcomes of the Faith Stock-Take, coordinate policy messaging, and contribute to the development of the aforementioned documents
4. Well-structured communications materials and mission reports



Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 60 days in the period from 01 July 2024 until 31 December 2024. payment is defined upon submission of time sheet. The consultancy is home based however if travel is needed, it will be organized and paid separately by the organization. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent) in environmental sciences, sustainable development, public administration, humanities, social sciences or related field. A relevant first-level university degree in the above fields in combination with ten additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.
- Minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in working with faith-based organizations and actors and other stakeholders and in sustainable development governance, policy-making and financing, is required.
- Proven track record in coordinating multi-stakeholder initiatives, preferably in the context of international environmental policy, is required.
- A strong understanding of the role of faith-based organizations in environmental conservation and restoration efforts is required.
- Experience in conducting landscape analyses and data analysis is required.
- An understanding of environmental challenges, land restoration and sustainable practices is desirable.
- Previous experience in working in or with international organizations or multi-country projects is desirable.
- Leadership, management, creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and organisation skills are required.
- Ability to analyze complex data, identify patterns, and draw evidence-based conclusions are required.
- Strong written and verbal communication abilities for drafting content, delivering presentations, and liaising with various stakeholders are required.
- Fluency in English language, both oral and written, is required; proficiency in other UN languages 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 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/35**.

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



The deadline for applications is **21 May 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 : 14 May 2024