



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: Research Associate

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/43

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 from 19 industrialized countries, the African Union and European Union (EU). The G20 Leaders' Declaration, issued in 2020, launched a "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, G20 countries share the ambition to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the amount of degraded land by 2040.

The initiative is currently in its third year of operation and is working globally on a range of activities from information management to capacity building. In 2024, the Unit will have to be actively involved in supporting the CoP16 as well as planning for 2025-26. The services of a research associate is needed for that purpose.

Objective of consultancy

G20 Unit has visible presence at the CoP16 of the UNCCD. G20 Unit workplan for 2025-26 is developed by November 2024.

Duties and responsibilities

- 1- Support the Director in preparing a roadmap for CoP16 which include Pavilions in Blue and Green Zone, Side Events, Volunteer Plans, Photographic Exhibitions.
- 2- Work with each of the G20 staff members to develop detailed plans for each of the above.
- 3- Support the Director in compiling the plans for the G20 Global Land Initiative for 2025-26, including associated financial plans.
- 4- Work with each of the G20 staff members to develop the detailed workplans for each of the units.
- 5- Support the Director in Organising a workshop on Miyawaki and Urban Forests in Yokohoma, Japan.
- 6- Support the Director in Developing a plan for First International Conference on Land Land Restoration.
- 7- Support the Director in preparing for strategic missions during the period as well as follow up actions after the missions
- 8- Develop a plan to engage with the Model United Nations to bring excellent MUN delegates to the UNCCD CoP and establish long term partnerships
- 9- Support the Director in developing AI based applications for the branch as part of its digital transformation, including coordination with UNV.
- 10- Other Duties are assigned by the supervisor.

Deliverables

1. Roadmap for Cop16 and detailed plans for each units.



2. Workplan for 2025-26 including detailed plans for each of the units.
3. Research outputs regarding specific missions undertaken by the Director and follow up actions.
4. Report of 100 Model United Nations around the world and engagement of MUN delegates to UNCCD CoP16.
5. Workshop report of the Miywaki and Urban Forests.
6. Detailed plans for the First International Conference on Land Restoration.
7. Report of the development work with AI programmes as well as engagement with Online UNVs.
8. Monthly update of activities undertaken.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 126 days in the period from 01 August 2024 until 31 January 2025. Payment is defined upon submission of time sheet. The consultancy is home based however travel to Bonn is needed and 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

- Degree in Law, Science, Engineering, Arts or Management Topics.
- One year work experience, a masters degree can be taken equivalent to work experience.
- High level of diplomatic skills, interpersonal skills and presentation skills (written and oral).
- Fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.

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/43**.

The deadline for applications is **28 June 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 June 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>