United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Consultant for Innovative Financing

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/49

Background

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 addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

The Global Mechanism is the 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 supports countries to translate the Convention into action and to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality at the national level.

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

Under the GM's Innovative Financing Mandate, and as part of the GM's efforts to assist Parties in the mobilization of resources, The GM has been exploring Carbon Credits and Resilience Credits and their feasibility in addressing Land Degradation and building Drought Resilience.

Objective of consultancy

Policy brief on UNCCD friendly Carbon Models.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of Radhika Jain, Associate Programme Officer, in the run up to COP16, the consultant will undertake the following tasks:

- Conduct an extensive literature review on existing UNCCD projects related to carbon sequestration and storage.
- Review and analyze current methodologies for measuring and monitoring carbon storage in soils.
- Gather and synthesize lessons learned from existing UNCCD projects to inform the development of a UNCCD-friendly carbon model.
- Identify and evaluate promising methodological approaches for measuring and monitoring soil carbon storage.
- Research and recommend the most appropriate, reliable, and cost-effective remote sensing technologies for monitoring soil carbon storage.

- Explore emerging technologies and innovative practices that could enhance monitoring accuracy and reduce costs. Analyze existing policies and regulations related to carbon credits, resilience credits, and biodiversity credits.
- Identify gaps and opportunities within the current policy framework to support the implementation of a UNCCD-friendly carbon model.
- Engage with key stakeholders, including UNCCD representatives, project implementers – including UNCCD projects, and other important stakeholders, to gather insights and feedback.
- Provide an overview of the new resilience credits launched by IFAD and biodiversity credits.
- Assess the potential of these credits to complement carbon credits, including their design, implementation, and monitoring.
- Draw lessons from the carbon credits market that can be applied to resilience and biodiversity credits to enhance their effectiveness and scalability.
- Develop a detailed model outlining what a UNCCD-friendly carbon model looks like, incorporating lessons learned and stakeholder feedback.
- Formulate clear, actionable recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to support the implementation of the model.
- Prepare presentation materials for the policy brief to be showcased at COP16.
- Develop talking points and key messages to be delivered during presentations to parties and stakeholders.

Deliverables

No.	Tasks & Deliverable	Target dates
1	Methodology for the Policy Brief	1 September 2024
2	Policy Brief	15 November 2024
3	One pager brief and Presentation	15 November 2024

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 05 months. This consultancy is home based Payments will be made upon submission of deliverables with an approval of the hiring manager of the Global Mechanism.

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

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.
- Proven experience in Environmental Market Mechanisms such as Carbon Credits.
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to conduct detailed policy and regulatory analysis.
- 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.
- 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 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** as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form[1] /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/24/C/49.**

The deadline for applications is **16 July 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: 09 July 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