



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy for Peace Forest Initiative environment dashboard

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/57

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.

The Peace Forest Initiative is a global initiative of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Its aim is to promote peace and confidence through land restoration. As conflict over natural resources is among the key global peace and security challenges, the PFI promotes cooperation between countries in managing natural resources, which offers opportunities to achieve stability and trust while rebuilding livelihoods for countries recovering from violent conflict. Launched in 2019 during the 14th COP to the UNCCD, the PFI is a practical platform to facilitate collaboration on sustainable land and forest management in diverse environments, in line with UNCCD's objectives as an international agreement on good land stewardship. Ultimately helping people, communities, and countries create wealth, grow economies, and secure enough food and water by ensuring sustainable land management.

UNCCD has been collaborating with the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNCCD) to build an environmental dashboard designed to support the aims of the PFI. This proposed dashboard would be based on UNDPPA's existing "Geogard" platform and used to foster cooperation on the PFI and expand the geospatial capabilities of stakeholders. It would also facilitate the operationalization of the PFI through the use of data-driven methods to tackle environmental and security challenges.

The purpose of the consultancy outlined in this terms of reference is to develop a prototype dashboard that will be showcased at the UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP) to be held in Riyadh in December 2024. The consultant will be expected to develop a prototype which will be used to demonstrate the utility of the dashboard as an effective tool for transboundary cooperation and for imbedding data informed approaches to land management and peacebuilding efforts. The initial dashboard prototype will be similar in appearance and functionality to the existing Geoguard platform and focused only on the Horn of Africa region. The prototype will allow stakeholders to test and evaluate its functionality and design before the platform is further developed and expanded. This will ensure that the final PFI dashboard is fit for purpose.

Objective of consultancy

Delivery of prototype dashboard as evidenced by live demonstration and screen-grabs (PDF) and associated dataset.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Managing Director of the GM and designated officer, in the run up to COP16, the consultant will undertake the following tasks:



- Develop a prototype geospatial dashboard (based on the existing version of Geoguard developed by UNDPPA).
- Incorporate eight countries into a dashboard to cover the Horn of Africa region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda) which is part of the PFI sites.
- Add geographical boundaries for these countries: including state, subnational regions, if appropriate.
- Collect and process environmental data (open source data). The processing will mirror the existing data infrastructure of Geoguard, including its method of normalizing and aggregating data. The initial indicators to be included are: total water change, groundwater change, land water change, precipitation, surface water extent, vegetation, land surface temperature, population. Other indicators may be added upon request.
- Assist the secretariat in technical cooperation and coordination with external experts and partners, including presentation of the prototype as necessary.
- Any other duties pertaining to this consultancy as may be determined by the supervising officer.

Deliverables

No.	Tasks & Deliverable	Target dates
1	Presentation of methodology	1 September 2024
2	Beta version of prototype dashboard	1 November 2024
3	Prototype dashboard	1 December 2024

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for maximum of 06 months to . This consultancy is home based.. Travel to COP 16 for presenting the prototype data dashboard is anticipated. 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 data science, environment science, natural resource management, or related disciplines.
- A minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience as a geospatial engineer or similar role.
- Experience working with UN and other national and international partners on geo-enabled environmental monitoring solutions.
- Experience in processing data on cloud-based software.
- Experience processing data from open-source earth observation providers such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), and European Space Agency (ESA), and developing a data pipeline from acquisition through ingestion, normalization, aggregation and the final deployment of operational dashboard.
- Interpersonal and presentation 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 Form¹ /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/24/C/57**.

The deadline for applications is **14 August 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: 07 August 2024

¹UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/opportunities/vacancies/guidelines>