



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: South Africa Liaison Officer

Consultancy reference number: CCD/24/C/69

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.

In 2025, South Africa will hold the G20 presidency. We need a senior consultant to develop a working paper providing a thorough situation analysis of land degradation and restoration issues in South Africa. The paper will serve as a key document to anticipate the South African G20 presidency.

Objective of consultancy

Produce a working paper including an analysis of land degradation and restoration challenges in South Africa, aiming to inform the G20 Global Land Initiative's strategy in view of the forthcoming South African G20 Presidency.

Duties and responsibilities

1. Conduct a baseline analysis of land degradation and restoration issues in South Africa.
2. Identify key governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in land management and their roles in implementing restoration initiatives.
3. Review media coverage, reports, and communications related to South Africa's preparations for the G20, particularly in the context of environmental issues and land management.
4. Develop actionable recommendations to inform South Africa's environmental issue paper, aligning it with the goals of the G20 Global Land Initiative.
5. Produce a working paper and final working paper including all the above-mentioned findings, analyses, and recommendations.
6. Any other duty assigned by the Director of the G20 Global Land Initiative.

Deliverables

- ✓ Draft Working Paper: A comprehensive document detailing the situation analysis, stakeholder mapping, media review, and strategic recommendations.
- ✓ Final Working Paper: Incorporating feedback and ready for use by the G20 Global Land Initiative and other relevant stakeholders.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 20 days in the period from 15 October 2024 until 31 December 2024. Payment is defined upon submission of time sheet. The consultancy is home based however if needed missions will be organized and paid separately by the organization. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.



Requirements

- A Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in law is required.
- 10 years of experience dealing with preparation of research and working papers on international conventions and regional meetings.
- Proven expertise in land management, environmental policy, and sustainable development, particularly within the context of South Africa.
- Strong understanding of the South African legal and policy framework related to land management and environmental conservation.
- Excellent research, drafting, and reporting skills, including the ability to draft information papers, minutes, notes, and reports, especially in the context of international organisations.
- Experience in legal analysis and review, drafting of legal opinions.
- Excellent writing, editing and oral communication skills in English are required.
- 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/69**.

The deadline for applications is **20 September 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 : 10 September 2024

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