



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy – Senior Economics of Land Restoration Consultant

Consultancy reference number: CCD/25/C/16

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.

Understanding the economic drivers of land restoration is important to provide policy prescriptions to governments on land restoration. A consultancy is proposed to develop such policy prescriptions based systematic analyses of country cases on land restoration.

Objective of consultancy

Improved policy prescriptions on land restoration which can be provided to countries, regional governments and cities.

Duties and responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Director, the Consultant is expected to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Mentoring and assessing/evaluating country systems analysis that is being carried out by the Center for Development Studies (up to 10 days)
2. Draw insights from country systems analysis and other materials, and use these to develop a training manual (policy-makers and other government officials, activists, private-sector professionals) on what may be attempted to enable/facilitate large-scale land restoration. (up to 20 days)
3. Document a set of cases where innovative approaches have been used for (or different stakeholders practice) land restoration across the world (up to 10 days)
4. Develop training programme on Socio-Economic Enablers of Land Restoration and deliver one pilot programme in India aimed at policy makers. (up to ten days)



Deliverables

1. Report on the mentoring support provided to CDS and review reports on the CDS outputs;
2. Training manual on socio-economic enablers for land restoration;
3. Case study compilation of best practice policies on land restoration;
4. Training programme curriculum and training report.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated for 50 days between 15 March and 15 December 2025. This consultancy is home based. If missions are organized outside of the duty station, travel will be paid and organized separately. The consultant will be paid in accordance to the days worked following submission of timesheet. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

Requirements

- A PhD in economics, public policy, science, engineering or sustainable development;
- Minimum of 20 years of academic or research experience ;
- Previous experience of working in the domain of land management;
- Experience in organising training events and workshops;
- Previous experience in working in or with international organizations or multi-country projects is desirable.
- Leadership, management, creativity, innovation, problem-solving, organisation skills are required.
- Ability to analyse complex data, identify patterns, 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/25/C/16**.

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



The deadline for applications is **04 March 2025**. 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 : 18 February 2025