



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy – Technical Expert, Sout Africa Presidency

Consultancy reference number: CCD/25/C/19

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

GLI engagement with South Africa Presidency is impactful and government is fully supported.

Duties and responsibilities

1. Reforest Festival in Cape Town, 18-21 April, Coordinating the international participation and local action - 7 days.
2. Coordinating our participation at the second ECWG meeting at Kruger national park. It may involve a side event and exhibition to be organized - 6 days, including two days of meeting, two days for preparation/coordination and one day of reporting.
3. Organizing an international lessons learnt workshop in South Africa (location and date to be determined, most likely back of the second ministerial) with large scale land restoration actors - 12 days.
4. Organizing tree planting events in coordination with the ministry for the national youth day – 10 days.
5. Participate in the G20 final working group meeting and ministerial and coordinate participation, which may include arranging a lecture at the local university for our executive secretary. - 10 days.
6. Any other activities mutually agreed - 5 days for any other activities.

Deliverables

1. A lessons learnt report on the rain forest festival;
2. A report on the second ECSWG meeting;
3. A report on the international lessons learnt event;
4. Report on the tree planting event;
5. Report on the final ministerial meeting;



6. A final report.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated for 50 days between 01 April and 30 November 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 degree in A 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.
- 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/19**.

The deadline for applications is **19 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 : 05 March 2025

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