



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy – Global Mechanism Business 4 Land (Two positions)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/25/C/25

Background

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification around the world, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.

The Global Mechanism (GM) assists countries in the mobilization of resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought.

Viable, adequate and sustained financing for effectively combating desertification, land degradation and drought worldwide can only be achieved through a significant involvement of the private sector (i.e. investors, financial intermediaries, businesses, consumers, and civil society including philanthropic foundations). In this context, public development finance is expected to play a crucial catalytic and supplementary role as part of a whole range of enabling governmental and intergovernmental activities. Investments in and via the UNCCD help to facilitate policy reform, leverage large investments and initiate change at the national level.

Closing the USD 1 billion per day financial gap needed to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) requires increased funding, particularly from the private sector. To accelerate this, it is essential to integrate UNCCD's strategic objectives into existing target-setting and disclosure frameworks for environment, nature, and climate. This includes developing investor checklists and designing campaigns based on business cases, and success stories of Champions that highlight the economic benefits of double materiality and investments in transformative solutions—making business operations more resilient to shocks.

Currently, only 6% of identified LDN investments come from the private sector. The newly created Business 4 Land Expert Group will play a pivotal role in scaling up corporate investments by leveraging existing methodologies in target setting and disclosure, while the B4L Steering Committee will design strategies to strengthen advocacy for sustainable land and water management.

Objective of consultancy

The purpose of these consultancies (2 positions) is to provide support for the implementation of the Business 4 Land engagement strategy, with a focus on the Great Green Wall Accelerator and other relevant flagship initiatives of the Global Mechanism.

Duties and responsibilities

The responsibilities of these consultancies are to:

- Support the implementation of the Business 4 Land strategy, including corporate engagement and advocacy.
- Strengthen private sector investment in land restoration, sustainable land use, drought resilience and resilience-building, particularly under the Great Green Wall Accelerator and other flagship initiatives.
- Manage relationships and coordinate activities with the Business 4 Land Expert Group and B4L Steering Committee, ensuring alignment with UNCCD priorities.
- Develop business cases and advocacy materials to promote corporate involvement in LDN and drought resilience, integrating business case studies and double materiality perspectives.



- Organize workshops, dialogues, and high-level events to facilitate partnerships between the private sector, governments, and financial institutions.
- Conduct targeted research and analysis on corporate sustainability trends, disclosure methodologies, and investment opportunities related to land restoration.

Deliverables

The consultants will be expected to produce the following key deliverables within a **6-month period** under the supervision of the Donor relations and value chains expert officer of the Global Mechanism:

- **Stakeholder Coordination:** Regular coordination meetings with the **B4L Expert Group** and **B4L Steering Committee**, including at least three structured reports summarizing outcomes and next steps. This includes specific tasks:
 - a. Scheduling & Organizing Meetings
 - i. Plan and schedule regular coordination meetings with the Business 4 Land (B4L) Expert Group and B4L Steering Committee (e.g., monthly or quarterly).
 - ii. Send invitations, set agendas, and ensure participation from key stakeholders (corporate partners, donors, UNCCD representatives).
 - iii. Prepare and distribute pre-meeting briefing materials, including relevant data, updates, and discussion points.
 - b. Facilitating Discussions & Engagement
 - i. Prepare briefing notes and PowerPoint presentations to facilitate discussions during meetings, ensuring alignment with the Business 4 Land strategy and private sector engagement goals.
 - ii. Identify areas for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and investment opportunities.
 - iii. Ensure private sector concerns and priorities are integrated into policy discussions and action plans.
 - c. Tracking & Documenting Key Outcomes
 - i. Take detailed minutes summarizing decisions, action items, and next steps.
 - ii. Draft and submit at least three structured reports summarizing:
 1. Key discussion points and stakeholder contributions
 2. Identified challenges and opportunities
 3. Recommended actions and follow-ups for both committees
 4. Ensure reports are clear, actionable, and tailored for internal and external stakeholders.
 - d. Ensuring Follow-up & Implementation
 - i. Coordinate the execution of agreed actions by liaising with businesses, policymakers, and technical experts.
 - ii. Maintain ongoing communication to monitor progress and address challenges.
 - iii. Provide periodic updates to UNCCD's Global Mechanism and private sector partners on the implementation of stakeholder recommendations.
- **Business Case & Advocacy Materials:** Based on research and data collection, targeted interview of experts and practitioners, development of two **advocacy packages** and two **business cases** to support corporate engagement on LDN and drought resilience.
 - a. *"The Business Case for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Investments"*
 - i. Based on the existing financial gap report, production of a 6–8 page document presenting the economic benefits of corporate investment in LDN, including financial risks of inaction, return-on-investment analysis, and case studies of



- businesses integrating land restoration into their ESG strategies. In addition, a PowerPoint version of the document.
- b. *“Scaling Corporate Investments for the Great Green Wall” (GGW-focused)*
 - i. A business case highlighting opportunities for businesses to invest in sustainable land restoration across the GGW region, including incentives, blended finance models, and examples of successful public-private partnerships supporting land regeneration in Africa.
 - c. *“Engaging the Private Sector in Drought Resilience”*
 - i. A practical guide for businesses and investors, including key messages, infographics, case studies, and an investment checklist on how companies can contribute to drought resilience through sustainable land management practices.
 - d. *“Corporate Engagement for the Great Green Wall: An Action Toolkit” (GGW-focused)*
 - i. A resource designed for corporations interested in supporting the GGW initiative, featuring investment pathways, success stories, partnership opportunities, and a roadmap for integrating GGW-related projects into corporate sustainability strategies.
- **Workshops & Dialogues:** Organize and facilitate **two workshops** with corporate stakeholders, including agenda setting, speaker coordination, and post-event summaries.
- a. A workshop for the B4L Steering committee: Align high-level corporate and institutional partners on key priorities for private sector engagement in land restoration and drought resilience
 - b. A workshop for the B4L Expert group: Validate the B4L roadmap until COP17 and finalize key deliverables and milestones for corporate engagement in land restoration and drought resilience.

This includes specific tasks like:

- i. Define Workshop Objectives & Key Topics
 - ii. Align the agenda with ongoing B4L and UNCCD initiatives.
 - iii. Draft a detailed agenda with session objectives, key discussion points, and expected outcomes.
 - iv. Identify and confirm high-level speakers (corporate CEOs, investors, policymakers).
 - v. Coordinate with UNCCD leadership and key partners to ensure engagement.
 - vi. Develop workshop materials (concept note, background documents, slide decks).
 - vii. Send invitations and manage RSVPs.
 - viii. Capture key insights, agreements, and next steps.
 - ix. Draft a post-event summary report outlining commitments and action points.
- **Corporate Target-Setting Guidance:** Develop **practical guidance** for companies on aligning corporate sustainability strategies with land-positive targets by coordinating consultation of experts and stakeholders. This includes:
- a. **an investor’s checklist**
 - i. Collaborate with UNCCD expert on innovative finance to prepare the TORs for the checklist, identify resources and experts to interview.
 - ii. Identify key sustainability and financial criteria for land restoration investments.
 - iii. Research best practices from existing frameworks (e.g., Science-Based Targets for Nature, TNFD, CDP, UN PRI).



- iv. Consult with B4L Expert Group and corporate sustainability leaders to validate key indicators for investors.
 - v. Draft a structured, easy-to-use checklist for investors, covering risk assessment, financial returns, and ESG integration for validation by B4L Steering committee.
 - b. **a guide on drought resilience**
 - i. Collaborate with UNCCD expert on drought resilience to prepare the TORs of the guide, identify resources and experts to interview.
 - ii. Analyse drought-related risks and business vulnerabilities across key sectors (agriculture, supply chains, manufacturing).
 - iii. Organize at least two consultation workshops with corporate representatives, investors, and policymakers to gather insights.
 - iv. Collect case studies of successful corporate drought resilience strategies.
 - v. Develop a step-by-step framework for companies to assess, mitigate, and adapt to drought risks.
 - vi. Engage with B4L Steering Committee and scientific experts to validate the methodology and ensure alignment with UNCCD goals.
 - vii. Integrate feedback into final versions of the guidance documents before dissemination.
 - viii. Format the guide into a concise, actionable document with checklists, infographics, and real-world examples.
- **Monitoring & Reporting:** Monthly progress reports summarizing activities, engagement outcomes, and impact tracking, as per following model:
- a. Key activities & achievements
 - b. Engagement outcomes & impact
 - c. Challenges & mitigation strategies
 - d. Next steps & priorities for next month
- **Performing** other duties as assigned by the Donor relations and value chains expert officer.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 06 months starting as soon as possible. This Consultancy is home-based. UNCCD does not provide health insurance to consultant and individual contractors. Incumbents selected for the consultancy are fully responsible for arranging, at their own expense, such life, health and other forms of insurance covering the period of their services as they consider appropriate. Proof of valid health insurance will be required before signing of the contract.

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

Requirements

- Advanced university degree (master's or equivalent) from a recognized university in a relevant field of work (e.g. finance/economics, politics, international relations, communications and/or any relevant field directly related to UNCCD – climate, disaster risk, environment or international development)
- At least two (2) years of relevant professional working experience in one or more of the following areas is required: sustainable development, public policy or project development communications, contribution management, resource mobilization, external relations, or other relevant area.
- Excellent organizing, multi-tasking, research, writing and project management skills is required.
- Previous experience in a relevant area such as private sector, relationship management, partnerships or resource mobilization/fundraising is desirable.



- Previous experience working with in an international environment (UN, International Organisation, Private Sector or NGO) is an advantage.
- Knowledge of project development and financing is an advantage.
- Fluency in English language (both oral and written) is required. Working knowledge of French language is an asset. Knowledge of another UN language is desirable.

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/25**.

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 : 12 March 2025

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