



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research Associate Consultant Global Initiative G20

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/GI/C/20

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 and the European Union (EU). Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 90 percent of the gross world product (GWP), 75 percent of world trade, two-thirds of the world population, and approximately half of the world's land area. In 2020, Saudi Arabia held the rotating Presidency of the G20. 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 Global Initiative (GI) with oversight from UNCCD, will focus on capacity building, engaging the private sector and civil society and showcasing success. The Director, under the oversight of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, manages the Initiative Coordination Office (ICO).

The consultancy is required to conduct extensive desk research on the existing commitments, capacity building efforts and institutions in G20 countries, other UN agencies, GCF, GEF, Private Sector Groups and Bezos Earth Fund in the domain of land restoration and habitat conservation.

Objective of consultancy

The initiative coordination office will have specific information on each of the G20 members, UN Institutions and Private Sector groups regarding their activities and commitments in the domain of Land Degradation and Habitat conservation

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Director Global Initiative the incumbent will undertake the following tasks:

1. Conduct desk review of the existing commitments, capacity building efforts, bilateral assistance and key institutions in the G20 countries in the domain of land restoration and habitat conservation
2. Conduct desk review of the existing initiatives and activities in various UN agencies which are linked to land restoration and habitat conservation
3. Conduct desk review of the existing funding allocations from GCF, GEF and Bezos Earth Fund in the domain of land restoration and habitat conservation
4. Conduct desk review of the existing commitments, investments and activities of private sector groups, such as World Business Council for Sustainable Development, on land degradation and ecosystem restoration.



5. Conducting baseline geospatial analysis of the land restoration and habitat conservation initiatives and opportunities

Deliverables

Key deliverables are:

- ✓ Background papers on each of the above countries and institutions, 4 per month
- ✓ Input to creating a two page fact sheet on each of the G20 countries, 4 per month

Contractual terms

The services of the selected individual contractors will be required for a duration 6 months starting as soon as possible. The consultant will be required to work in Global Initiative Office in Bonn, Germany. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the Global Initiative/UNCCD.

Requirements

- Advanced university degree (master's or higher) in degree in Environmental Studies, Geography, GIS, Public Policy or related area. Skill in Geographical Information Systems
- A minimum of 2 years of progressively responsible experience in environmental research including statistics. 1 year experience or post graduate degree
- Good understanding of GIS & Remote Sensing application
- Familiarity with the working environment and professional standards of international organizations and national and State Governments
- Excellent writing, editing and oral communication skills in English 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

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹, CV and cover letter, specifying the reference number: [CCD/22/GI/C/20](#).

The deadline for applications is **29 March 2022**. 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 Initiative. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 23 March 2022

¹ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: [Guidelines | UNCCD](#)