



TERMS OF REFERENCE

International consultant to support the development of the UNCCD Greater Sahel Programme

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/26

Background

The Global Mechanism is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. As the operational arm of the convention, the Global Mechanism (GM) supports countries to translate the Convention into action.

Dryland ecosystems cover some 43 percent of Africa. They are home to more than half a billion people dependent on the land for their food and livelihoods (largely through farming and pastoralism), harbor some of the continent's most celebrated wildlife and plant species and produce much of the continent's food. Africa's drylands are facing considerable challenges due to climate change and declining rainfall, water scarcity and rising temperatures in the Sahel 1.5 times faster than the global average. The economic fallout of COVID-19 has seen livestock exports fall by up to 50 percent and imported food prices rise by the same amount which led to destabilized socio-economic situation for communities.

The Greater Sahel region¹ is at the cross section of these challenges but is at the same time a land of opportunity. Building on some groundbreaking Sahelian initiatives such as the Great Green Wall, this Greater Sahel programme will embed the achievement of bold regional targets into a narrative of regional re-integration and re-birth. The benefits will be accrued to all countries in the wider Sahel area.

At the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP15), Parties adopted a set of decisions that focus on a diversified portfolio of support that puts people, especially the most vulnerable, first. Notable decisions included accelerating work on improving land tenure systems, better preparing for drought and encouraging gender responsiveness. At the entry into the Decade for Action and Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, parties agreed it is time to move from plans and targets towards implementation of transformative land-based solutions on the ground.

The proposed programme on the Greater Sahel region will underpin UNCCD's work in the Sahel region encompassing our ongoing commitment to support the Accelerator of the Great Green Wall and our ambition to support to 6 critical pillars of action that are integral to realizing the potential, through sustainable development, of the wider circum-Saharan zone (the Greater Sahel – that will include the Great Green wall countries, the neighboring countries of the Gulf of Guinea in the south and the horn of Africa.

Objective of consultancy

The objective and final expected output from the International Consultant will be the Greater Sahel programme full proposal and an analysis on the stakeholders and donors mapping in the region and an investment case for the Greater Sahel region.

¹ The Greater Sahel Program will include the 11 Great Green wall countries, the neighbouring countries of the Gulf of Guinea in the south of Sahel, the north and central Africa, and the horn of Africa.



Duties and Responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the direct supervision of the Sahel Programme coordinator, the international consultant will be responsible for the following duties:

- Based on the existing concept note developed by GM, the consultant will further elaborate the programme on the Greater Sahel proposal and main components and produce a full project document and supporting annexes by further developing the programme components, the scope and thematic areas, the implementation arrangements, and the resource mobilization strategy. The final document should be well written using illustrations and process diagrams to simplify and clearly show the implementation arrangements. The document should be informed by the following assessments and recommendations:
 - A situation analysis allowing to know the needs, challenges, and opportunities in the Greater Sahel region considering gender aspects. The consultant should gather data on the environmental, political, economic and social factors that impact the region.
 - An overview of the specific enabling environment for implementing existing restoration commitments and targets at the national level, including those contained in their LDN country reports, revised NDCs, emerging NBSAPs, SDGs, and other relevant action plans and programmes such as National Development Strategic Plans (NDSPs).
 - A mapping of stakeholders, donors, and ongoing restoration projects, programmes and initiatives in the region highlighting the opportunities for partnerships and synergies with the Great Sahel proposal.
 - Based on the above research and analysis as well as the existing concept note, the consultant should design the program. This should include setting specific goals and objectives, identifying the activities that will be implemented, and determining the resources needed to implement the program which includes a breakdown of costs for the program components and activities.
 - An implementation planning that should include identifying the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, developing a timeline for implementation, and establishing a monitoring and evaluation plan.
 - Identification of potential funding sources for the program including grants, environmental and climate funds, Multilateral development banks, impact funds and private donors and other opportunities.
 - Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of the program to allow informed decision making about future program design and implementation.
 - Establishment of the Communication strategy plan of the Greater Sahel programme.
- Work closely with the Sahel team and facilitate discussions with the identified key strategic partners to set roles according to their strength, value addition and potential role in the Greater Sahel programme.
- Conceptualize, organize, prepare and facilitate consultation and online meetings with selected key strategic partners to review the proposed Greater Sahel programme components and implementation arrangements, to ensure transparency and compliance with international standards.

Deliverables

The consultant will provide following deliverables:

- Workplan with key milestones upon inception meeting with the GM team;
- Situation analysis in the Greater Sahel region;



- Draft Greater Sahel programme proposal;
- Final Greater Sahel programme proposal.

Contractual terms

The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for a period of 6 months. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by output. The consultancy is home based, part-time. Women are encouraged to apply. Start date: as soon as possible.

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

Requirements

- Advanced university degree in environmental finance, environmental science, agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, environmental economics, business development and management, public policy or related fields;
- A minimum of ten years of experience in natural resources management, project development, development finance, climate finance, blended finance;
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on project development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: sustainable land and water management, forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate-smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, water resources management, renewable energy etc;
- Experience on project financial structuring and blended financing arrangements with experience working with different funding agencies to access public funds, grants, loans, private sector and other innovative financing sources;
- Experience with private sector stakeholders and gender mainstreaming is an asset;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure, and deliver assignments on time.
- Fluency in English and French both oral and written 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

The following documents should be sent to staffing@unccd.int as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form² /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/23/C/26**.

The deadline for applications is **05 May 2023**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

² UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>



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. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 14 April 2023