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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy – University Curriculum Expert Consultant

Consultancy reference number: CCD/25/C/11

#### 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](http://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.

G20 Land Initiative is developing a series of masters curriculum for Universities as well as planning a massive open online course on land restoration. A consultant is needed to coordinate this work.

#### Objective of consultancy

Increased capacity building activities on land restoration issues through universities and online platforms.

#### Duties and responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Director and the Programme Management Officer, the Consultant is expected to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Oversee two regional Training of Trainer's workshops for dissemination of the "Trigger Change! Sustainable agriculture course", in Latin America and Europe (Q1, 2025)
2. A survey of those who have downloaded the course for the Agricultural Course and lessons learnt document for increasing uptake of the course.
3. Oversee the finalization of the "Trigger Change! Sustainable urban course", including the final delivery of course modules, case studies and the course manual as well as the launch event details.
4. Ensure that the G20 GLI data management platform and website for downloading the "Global course on Urban land restoration" materials are finalized and tested before the course launch.
5. Oversee the organization of 4 webinars and at least two on-line workshops with course partners for the dissemination of the "Trigger Change! Sustainable urban course".
6. Develop the "Innovations in Land Restoration MOOC" blueprint (workplan, detailed outlines scripts for the "Leadership track" and a production plan) with partners.



7. Ensure communications with the G20 GLI/UNCCD staff to update the website and communications materials as the three knowledge products are developed, including a blog for the launching of the “Trigger Change! Sustainable urban course” and for the MOOC.
8. Participate in relevant international conferences or meetings to promote the courses in consultation with UNU-EHS and G20 GLI/UNCCD.

### Deliverables

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- A report, including statistics about the regional ToT for Agricultural Course ;
- A report on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Agricultural Masters Module in Universities, including survey results;
- All modules and ToT manual on the Urban Land Restoration Course uploaded on to the website for downloading;
- A final report on the uptake of the Urban Land Restoration Course, including details of the statistics;
- A functional outline of the MOOC along with workplan, potential partners, technologies to be used, concept notes and scripts for the “Leadership track”, and concept notes for the “Expert track (6 modules) and the “Business track”, a production plan and recommendations for promotion for the MOOC to reach the 1 million target;
- Reports from the meetings attended.

### Contractual terms

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated for 110 days within a 06 months period. This 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

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- A PhD in Science or Engineering
- Minimum 25 years of working experience
- Experience in developing academic modules on land restoration
- Experience in developing Massive Open Online Courses
- Previous experience in working in or with international organizations or multi-country projects is desirable.
- Leadership, management, creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and organisation skills 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

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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](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>1</sup> /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/25/C/11**.

The deadline for applications is **24 February 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 : 10 February 2025

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