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## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **International consultant** **Design of a gender responsive LDN Transformative Project in Nigeria**

Consultancy reference number: CCD/20/GM/55

#### **Background**

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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 supports countries to translate the Convention into action.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. As the main expected result it defines under target 15.3 to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030.

In October 2015, the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD defined Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and endorsed the concept as a strong vehicle for the implementation of the Convention. Subsequently, in September 2017, the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the COP emphasized the critical role of LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP) for the implementation of the Convention. This has been reaffirmed at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the COP in New Delhi in September 2019.

#### **Consultant tasks**

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Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer in charge of the LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes, the overall supervision of the LDN Programme Coordinator and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, and under the guidance of the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and UNDP as implementing partner / accredited entity to GCF, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

In the first stage of the assignment, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- In coordination with the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and UNDP, and engaging with other relevant partners, confirm the project idea and alignment with GCF as the main targeted funding source as well as potential private sector to ensure all partners are engaged from the start of the concept design;
- Ensuring sound liaison with the GCF national focal point / National Designated Authority, to secure the project endorsement, and to further develop the project concept in partnership with UNDP and all relevant stakeholders;
- Further defining the LDN project concept based on desk reviews and interviews with national institutions and potential technical and financial partners;
- Ensuring the project concept contributes to achieve the LDN targets (SDG 15.3), ideally in the LDN hotspots, and fully integrates the LDN conceptual framework guiding principles;
- Identifying additional funding sources, complimentary to the main targeted funding source already identified, as well as key co-financing sources relevant to the identified project concept,



as well as building the project/programme financing arrangements including blended financing mechanisms<sup>1</sup> where applicable involving several potential funders;

- Facilitate building partnerships with relevant private sector stakeholders at national and/or international level and ensure their involvement in the design and implementation of the LDN project.

In the second stage of the assignment, once the project concept is agreed between relevant national stakeholders and the project/programme financial arrangements are defined, the consultant will be specifically responsible for:

- Producing a GCF project concept note document according to the GCF template, taking into account the LDN features checklist as well as paying a particular attention to mainstreaming gender, to be reviewed by the Global Mechanism team, UNDP team, the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and taking into account the outcome of national consultations;
- Facilitating, under the guidance of the UNCCD National Focal Point institution and UNDP, national multi-stakeholder consultation meetings organized by the National Focal Point institution and/or UNDP to foster dialogue and consensus on the project;
- Producing a final GCF project concept note integrating comments from involved stakeholders, particularly the UNCCD National Focal Point institution, the UNDP and the Global Mechanism.

### **Deliverables**

The consultant will provide following deliverables:

- ✓ Workplan / timeline that covers central tasks at the inception of the consultancy,
- ✓ Draft GCF Project Concept Note document according to the GCF template,
- ✓ Final GCF Project Concept Note document according to the GCF template.

All final documents must be delivered in English.

### **Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in environmental finance, environmental sciences, agriculture, forestry, climate change, soil sciences, environmental economics, business development and management or related fields;
- A minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible experience in natural resources' policy; project development, resource mobilization and innovative finance;
- Experience in drafting and preparing project concepts and full project documents, meeting criteria and requirements of the GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund or other relevant funding sources;
- Proven work experience as a technical advisor on projects development and preparation in at least one of the following thematic areas: forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management, REDD+, climate smart agriculture, agricultural development, ecosystem-based adaptation, natural ecosystems management, biodiversity conservation, etc.;
- Experience with private sector stakeholders is an asset;
- Solid knowledge of the LDN process in the country of assignment is an asset;
- Fluency in English both oral and written is required.

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<sup>1</sup> Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries (OECD).



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### **Contractual terms**

This consultancy will be home-based and will include virtual meetings with national stakeholders and international partners and possible mission within the country (if required and covered by the Government or UNDP). The services of the selected consultant will be required for a period of 12 months. Women are encouraged to apply. Start date, as soon as possible.

### **Submission of applications**

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) with a UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>2</sup> and cover letter, specifying the reference number: **CCD/20/GM/55**.

The **deadline for applications is 15 November 2020**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered. No telephone calls will be returned. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

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: 06 November 2020

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