

Terms of reference

Scientific Partnership Strategy for the UNCCD Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (Short-term Consultancy)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/15/KMST/48

A. Background

One of the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought. The accomplishment of this objective is led by the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology (CST) that seeks, among other tasks, to promote and/or create effective knowledge-sharing systems to support policymakers and end users, through inter alia the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.

In 2014 this resulted in a Pilot, with a platform integrating the data and knowledge bases of five collaborating organizations, in addition to many of the materials made available on UNCCD's website. The Pilot is a small-scale implementation of the proposed SKBP. In 2015 the portal has been further developed, integrating the various parts of the SKBP pilot, in parallel to the development of a roadmap for 2016 and 2017.

The SKBP has been designed to facilitate flexible cooperation with partners at many levels, amongst which the Knowledge partners, which are mostly scientific institutions providing direct access to their knowledge bases. At the UNCCD Conference of the Parties, that took place in Ankara, Turkey October 2015, Parties adopted several decisions regarding the further expansion of the SKBP, including the recommendation to expand the number of Knowledge partners connected to the Portal.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

In close cooperation with the UNCCD staff for Knowledge Management, Science and Technology, the incumbent for this consultancy will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Compile a draft Scientific Partnership Strategy for the SKBP, based on input from the relevant UNCCD staff, and the feedback and recommendations from existing and potential knowledge partners;
- Compile a draft partnership agreement for Scientific Knowledge partners;
- Identify and engage 20 potential partners, to be connected to the SKBP in 2016.

The Scientific Partnership Strategy should address the following issues:

- Ensuring the usefulness of the SKBP by offering relevant content;
- Enabling the secretariat to connect new partners in an efficient and cost-effective way;

- Allow the secretariat to maintain high quality standards for the content offered through the SKBP.

C. Required qualifications and work experience

The consultant is requested to have the following professional qualifications:

- Advanced academic degree in agriculture, soil science, environmental science, natural resource management, international development, or related field;
- Extensive experience in scientific research and cooperation concerning land degradation, land management and related fields;
- Significant experience in knowledge management concepts applied to scientific information sharing using information and communication technologies;
- Highly developed conceptual, analytical and innovative problem-solving ability; demonstrated ability to handle complex issues;
- Proven ability to coordinate a multi-partner process;
- Experience in and understanding of the dynamics of an intergovernmental process would be an asset;
- Fluency in English is a necessity; other UN languages would be an asset.

D. Tentative timetable

The consultant will be, unless otherwise agreed, based at the UNCCD secretariat under the supervision of the head of the Knowledge Management, Science and Technology unit. The expected duration of this consultancy service is three months (on a flexible part-time basis) starting December 2015.

The fee will be defined on the basis of the qualifications of the incumbent and may be delivered in instalments, upon timely delivery of the expected outputs.

E. Submission of applications:

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int, together with a UN Personal History Form or CV, specifying the position: **Short-term Consultancy SKBP – Scientific Partnership Strategy Consultant.**

The deadline of applications is **24 November 2015**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered.

No telephone calls will be returned. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address your application to or copy it to an individual at the secretariat