



Terms of Reference
Junior consultancy ERPA 3-S
for the UNCCD External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit
Vacancy reference: CCD/17/ERPA/28

Background

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to combat desertification and land degradation, and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected countries around the world, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels. This is supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

The Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) in Africa is an inter-governmental initiative that aims to stabilize the areas “at risk” by creating new jobs for young and vulnerable people, migrants and at-risk groups, such as former combatants and internally displaced people through the use of land rehabilitation. The Initiative was launched at the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) in Marrakesh by Senegal and Morocco. In support of the “3S” initiative, it was decided that a Task Force composed of a representative group of African Countries would be established. The secretariat of the 3S Initiative was entrusted to UNCCD Secretariat.

Context

The high dependency of the African continent on its natural base, if not well managed, risks amplifying the vulnerability of millions of people. Major threats and risks linked to instability and insecurity include: (i) competition and conflict over access to productive natural resources as result of degradation, “unsustainable” use of land and water; (ii) “Instability” caused by the lack of employment and income generating opportunities for rural youth that forces them to seek alternatives far from their home communities; (iii) “Insecurity” and the risk of radicalization triggered by social and economic disenfranchisement and increased exposure to extremist groups.

The 3S initiative aims at contributing to the creation of conditions for stability and security prioritizing young people, migrants, displaced populations and individuals targeted by extremist groups. It promotes inclusive and sustainable growth through investments in land rehabilitation and sustainable land management as a strategic area to create new green jobs. The rationale for prioritizing investments on land rehabilitation, while securing access to tenure, is that unlike any other employment opportunities, land-based jobs increase the sense of belonging to a specific



community and place. This will significantly contribute to stabilizing communities and boosting local development.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the coordinator of the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) unit of the UNCCD and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer/Migration, the consultant will support the 3S Task Force secretariat in following activities:

- Conduct research on land degradation, migration and instability in Africa, and provide policy briefing materials on youth employment policies.
- Provide logistics support to the organization of the meetings of the Task Force of the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) in Africa.
- Support the preparation and review of a variety of written outputs, such as background papers, correspondence with partners, working papers, mission reports, analyses, briefings, presentations, policy proposals and documents, technical publications, regular and ad hoc reports, studies, summary reports, manuals, guides, toolkits, etc.
- Research, draft and update country profiles and other background documents in preparation for high-level meetings and other events.
- Review, translate and edit documents (English/French and vice versa) as required.
- Provide administrative and substantive support at meetings, conferences, and other events, to include proposing agenda topics, researching and proposing experts, handling logistics, etc.
- Perform other duties as required.

Requirements

- Master degree in international studies or peace and security with particular focus on Africa; A first level university degree in similar fields in combination with two additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree;
- Two (2) years of working experience, preferably with an organization conducting research and analysis in the fields of sustainability, migration and stability;
- Research experience with an emphasis on security issues or African studies;
- Experience in trans disciplinary work and communications;
- Fluency in French and English (both oral and written) with demonstrated writing skills is required for this consultancy ; Knowledge of another UN Official language is an asset;
- Ability to work independently and be target oriented.

Work location

UNCCD office in Bonn, Germany



Expected duration

Contractual period for this consultancy is for three (3) months with an opportunity for extension, pending the needs of the unit and availability of funds. The consultancy is full time. Consultant work five days per week under the supervision of a staff member in the department or office to which they are assigned.

Assessment

Short listed candidates will be contacted by hiring manager directly for further consideration.

Submission of applications

All applications should be sent by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int together with a UN Personal History Form or CV, specifying the position: **CCD/17/ERPA/28 - Junior Consultancy UNCCD, ERPA-3S**.

The deadline for applications is **10 December 2017**. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be considered. No telephone calls will be returned.

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.

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