

Species Recovery Planners

Kenya

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking qualified experts in endangered species recovery management to provide technical assistance in Kenya.

BACKGROUND: DOI ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise, on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Kenya's natural resources and in particular its biodiversity and wildlife are among the country's most valuable assets. Approximately 8% of Kenya's land is set aside for wildlife in its 56 parks and reserves with a large area encompassing a network of communal and private land as dispersal areas and corridors for the wildlife. The continued conservation and management of these areas is critical and necessary for the long-term viability of Kenya's national heritage. A critical area identified by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) that is needed to protect Kenya's national heritage is: the recovery of certain endangered species..

The number of animals that get into the IUCN red list data continues to rise year after year. The African lion is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species due to a continuing decline in the species' population. The national lion population estimates for Kenya were 2749 in 2002 and 2280 in 2004 (Bauer & Van Der Merwe). In 2002 the Cheetah was listed in the IUCN Red Data Book as an endangered species. It is also recognized as threatened in CITES Appendix I. In addition, the IUCN has added African wild dogs, to the Red List of endangered species, deeming them one of the continent's most endangered carnivores. This is due to several factors including; poaching, land fragmentation, encroachment of humans into wildlife habitats. Active and adaptive conservation measures are therefore necessary if these species are to survive in future.

The Government of Kenya would like to:

- Develop a national working group on cheetahs and other selected endangered species
- Take stock of the current populations of selected endangered species
- Undertake stakeholder consultation to develop mutually acceptable management mechanisms for selected endangered species
- Secure, and where possible, restore sustainable populations of selected species throughout their present and potential range.

DOI-ITAP has been asked to review efforts that have already been taken on species recovery in Kenya, and to assist with the development of a plan to accomplish the above.

ASSIGNMENT: It is anticipated that several 2-person teams will travel to Kenya sometime between 2007 and 2010 to provide assistance on recovering selected endangered species. The assignments will be for approximately 2 weeks in the field, with two weeks required for preparation and two weeks for follow-up at duty stations within the U.S.

SCHEDULE: The first of these two-week assignments will likely begin in January/February of 2008, with some degree of flexibility for setting dates amenable to selected candidates.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: Background material will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with the DOI-ITAP manager on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance over phone and email.

Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future related technical assistance for program implementation in Kenya.

COSTS AND LOGISTICS: The International Technical Assistance Program will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The salaries of the team members, however, will be paid by their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation. All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Persons wishing to be considered for this assignment:

- Must be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Must have demonstrated experience in one or more aspects of Species and/or Habitat Recovery Management;
- Must have knowledge of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, and its application to the species included under this assignment;
- Must have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Previous international experience in eastern Africa is desirable.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment should send a resume or letter summarizing relevant work experience. A form SF 171 is acceptable. Please submit applications (electronically is preferred) to:

Barbara Pitkin
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS 3547
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-5221
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: bpitkin@ios.doi.gov

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed and interviews conducted as they are received.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

Employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement are required to have supervisory approval prior to submitting an application.

Application Process

A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several weeks. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, email or letter.

The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements.