

# **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Experts for Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking qualified experts on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to provide technical assistance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

**BACKGROUND:** DOI-ITAP provides technical assistance to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise, on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating in some twenty countries with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Funded by the U.S. State Department, DOI-ITAP is providing technical assistance in the Middle East on CITES.

DOI will be assisting countries in the MENA region to address endangered species conservation in a comprehensive manner. Emphasis will be placed on developing transparency in implementation of CITES, and encouraging good governance through efficient and effective policies and procedures throughout the implementation chain. Possible countries include: Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Activities in the various countries will focus on three main objectives:

- Establish the necessary legal framework to enable functioning CITES implementation in selected countries
  - Meet with government officials to lay out steps needed for ratification in non-signatory countries
  - Identify necessary legislative changes for effective CITES implementation, and provide written recommendations on those changes
  - Follow-up visits to assess progress
- Strengthen Management and Scientific Authorities in selected countries
  - Conduct comprehensive assessment of current Management and Scientific Authorities in selected countries to identify strengths, weaknesses, and what is needed to achieve 'functioning' status
  - Develop roadmaps for achieving functioning status
  - Identify necessary equipment for relevant agencies

- Train relevant personnel in transparent permitting processes
- Train Scientific Authority personnel to conduct studies of species of flora and fauna under CITES
- Develop a cadre of capable inspection personnel in selected countries
  - Identify training and equipment needs
  - Train personnel in inspection techniques and engage in repeat visits for implementation and monitoring activities

**ASSIGNMENT:** It is anticipated that several teams of experts will travel to the region beginning Fall 2007 through Fall 2009. The assignments will be for approximately 2 weeks in the field, with several hours required for preparation and follow-up at duty stations within the U.S.

**SCHEDULE:** These two-week assignments will be scheduled with a high degree of flexibility for setting dates amenable to selected candidates and their supervisors.

**PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES:** All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. 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 training and technical assistance in the MENA region.

**COSTS:** 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.

## 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 the following:
  - CITES ratification
  - Implementing legislation for CITES
  - Functioning of CITES Management Authorities
  - Permitting Processes
  - Public Comment Systems
  - Studies conducted by CITES Scientific Authorities
  - CITES-related inspection procedures
- 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 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.

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

## 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:

Emily Joseph  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW MS 3547  
Washington, DC 20240  
Tel: (202) 208-3624  
Fax: (202) 501-6381  
E-mail: [emily\\_joseph@nbc.gov](mailto:emily_joseph@nbc.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.

**Application Process**

A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several months. 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.