

Sustainable Ecotourism 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 sustainable ecotourism and related activities 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 working within the MENA region on ways for local communities to benefit economically from endangered species conservation, through sustainable ecotourism and related activities. Possible countries include: Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The objective in selected countries will be to:

- Identify sites with potential for increased ecotourism and appropriate recipients for technical assistance on income-generating activities.
- Conduct training workshops for local communities to develop small business opportunities related to ecotourism, such as nature guiding, recreation and hospitality services, handicrafts, etc.
- Conduct repeat visits to assist with implementation and conduct 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 working with local communities to develop small business opportunities related to ecotourism, such as nature guiding, recreation and hospitality services, handicrafts, etc.
- 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

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.