

Protected Area Management

SULTANATE OF OMAN

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking qualified experts on protected areas management for a short term assignment to take place in the Sultanate of Oman.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides technical assistance on a reimbursable basis to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise. The program is currently operating in approximately twenty countries on a wide variety of natural and cultural resource management issues 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.

The DOI-ITAP program in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is funded by the U.S. State Department/Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Thanks to this program, DOI-ITAP is working throughout the region on a range of endangered species conservation issues. This work is being done in support of Free Trade Agreements, Trade and Investment Framework Agreements and Science and Technology Agreements between the United States and various countries in the MENA region. The goals of the program include:

- Strengthened capacity to combat illegal trade in endangered species, consistent with CITES, including public comment systems established consistent with the rigorous public notification requirements under CITES;
- Strengthened capacity of existing NGOs to develop education and outreach tools to increase public awareness and support for the conservation of endangered species;
- Strengthened capacity of local NGOs to engage in sustainable management of endangered species and critical habitat; and
- Economic benefits derived from endangered species conservation, through sustainable ecotourism and related activities.

ASSIGNMENT: ITAP is seeking an expert on protected area systems development and management to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA) in the Sultanate of Oman. Oman has a long history of promoting the conservation of its unique natural resources and is actively developing several ecotourism projects throughout the country. Several protected areas have already been established in Oman, and the Sultan

recently issued a royal decree that would require the creation of several more within the next year. The selected ITAP team will be charged with advising high level MECA officials on developing a comprehensive and integrated national protected areas system, which would incorporate individual management plans for the existing and proposed protected areas. The ITAP team will also work closely with the Environment Society of Oman (ESO), a non-governmental organization that advises MECA on a host of conservation issues, including the development of management plans for the existing and proposed protected areas.

Additionally, the ITAP team will be advising MECA and ESO on the management of one or two protected areas that have been identified as demonstration sites. These sites will likely be coastal protected areas that include nesting habitat for endangered sea turtle populations, as well as critical habitat for other species. Several of the potential sites are also home to endangered terrestrial species, such as the Arabian Gazelle. Potential sites could include the Daymaniyat Islands Nature Reserve, the Ras al-Hadd Nature Reserve, Masirah Island (not yet a protected area), among others.

SCHEDULE: This assignment will involve two weeks of in-country work, to be scheduled with a high degree of flexibility for setting dates amenable to selected candidates and their supervisors. The assignment will likely occur in late summer or fall of 2008.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP or our in-country counterpart. 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. The preparation will include communicating with ESO and MECA to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three 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 Oman.

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

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Preferably be a current or retired employee of DOI or another USG agency;
- Have demonstrated experience working in developing and managing a national park system, as well as developing management and strategic plans for individual protected areas; OR demonstrated experience in the management and operations of an individual protected area.

- 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;
- Arabic proficiency is welcomed, but not necessary for this assignment.

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

DEADLINE: July 11, 2008

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 Kilcrease
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS 3530
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-7103
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: emily_kilcrease@ios.doi.gov

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D' Alessandro in the NPS Office of International Affairs (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov).

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.