

# **WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT/SUPPRESSION TRAINING SPECIALISTS**

## **Republic of Georgia**

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking three specialists to address the following areas:

- Provide wildland fire suppression training to Georgian Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources personnel, particularly those within the Ministry's Protected Areas Agency. Relevant issues such as suppression planning, base camp management, use and maintenance of appropriate equipment, and overall safety should be emphasized.
- Provide guidance in the development of fire management plans for protected areas
- Define an appropriate training program for Ministry personnel, including initial and refresher training.
- Provide guidance in post-fire rehabilitation needs (e.g., slope erosion mitigation measures).

**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.

Since 1999, DOI-ITAP has worked with the Republic of Georgia to develop its national system of protected areas. With funding from USAID/Georgia, DOI-ITAP has provided broad technical assistance at the headquarters level of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources on issues of protected area system management, technical assistance and training. Assistance has included helping to develop a training center and designing relevant training courses, assessing the Ministry's GIS capabilities and needs, planning visitor services protected areas demonstration sites, visitor services infrastructure development, assisting in revising the country's national environmental laws, and others.

The current assignment is in direct response to the recent, short-lived Georgia-Russian war. A by-product of this conflict was an uncontrolled wildland fire in one of the country's National Parks, Borjomi. As a result, the need to enhance the overall Ministry's fire suppression capabilities has been identified.

**ASSIGNMENT:** The assignments will be conducted as a two-week assignment, and will probably be based both out of the nation's capital, Tbilisi, and an appropriate field site. The timing of these trips will be scheduled in accordance with the preferred candidates' availabilities, but the need is to conduct this training as soon as possible. Some time will

be required at the home duty station for pre-trip preparation and post-trip follow-up activities (e.g. final trip report and recommendations). While in Georgia, the DOI specialists selected for this assignment will work closely with the project's Tbilisi-based on-site coordinator.

**SCHEDULE:** These assignments are expected to occur in early FY 09, with dates that will be set that are 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 materials will be provided to the selected individuals prior to the trip. 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 via email.

Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft report focusing on the trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future related training and relevant technical assistance in Georgia.

**COSTS:** ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The salaries of the team members 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:

- Preference given to current or retired DOI employees and other USG employees
- Must have an expansive working knowledge of wildland fire management/suppression activities;
- Experience in delivering wildland fire suppression training and planning is desired;
- Must have a demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups; and
- 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.

### **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-3530  
Washington, DC 20240  
Tel: (202) 208-5221  
Fax: (202) 501-6381  
E-mail: [barbara\\_pitkin@ios.doi.gov](mailto:barbara_pitkin@ios.doi.gov)

Please contact Barbara Pitkin or Marc Weitzel ([marc\\_weitzel@fws.gov](mailto:marc_weitzel@fws.gov)) with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB 8 October 2008.

Applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted as they are received.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro ([rudy\\_dalessandro@nps.gov](mailto:rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov)) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

### **Application Process**

A shortlist 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, e-mail, or letter.

This position is open to all applicants who meet the stated requirements.