

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Experts CENTRAL AMERICA

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 of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to provide technical assistance in Central America. DOI-ITAP is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other United States government agencies and non-governmental organizations on this program.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides technical assistance to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise, on a reimbursable basis. The program has operated in more than thirty countries with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of State, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Funded by the U.S. Department of State, DOI-ITAP is providing technical assistance to promote improved implementation and enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), in support of the Central America/Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement with the United States (CAFTA-DR). The CAFTA-DR countries include: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

DOI will assist CAFTA-DR countries to address wildlife trade management and associated endangered species conservation in a comprehensive manner. Technical assistance (including training, consultation, and capacity building activities) will be provided to:

- Strengthen legal frameworks for CITES implementation;
- Reinforce CITES Management and Scientific Authorities in executing their duties under the Convention;
- Strengthen CITES enforcement and wildlife trade inspection activities;
- Strengthen education and outreach on wildlife trade and endangered species conservation;
- Develop single-species initiative(s) to demonstrate model wildlife trade management regimes;
- Develop initiative(s) to demonstrate model management of protected areas containing endangered species affected by international trade;
- Develop new and improve existing wildlife rescue centers; and
- Encourage sustainable tourism as an alternative to illegal hunting and trade.

Emphasis will be placed on developing transparency in the implementation of CITES and encouraging good governance through efficient and effective policies and procedures.

ASSIGNMENT: It is anticipated that several small teams of experts will travel to the region beginning in Spring 2008 through Fall 2010. The assignments will be for approximately two to three weeks, with additional times required for preparation and several hours required for follow-up reporting at duty stations in 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 three weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future related training and technical assistance in the CAFTA-DR 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 current DOI employees may or may not be covered by DOI-ITAP, depending on the needs of the employee's home office. Non-DOI employees will be provided a negotiated stipend.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Persons wishing to be considered for this assignment:

- Preference will be given to current, former, or retired USG employees, and current, former, or retired employees of foreign governments;
- Must have demonstrated experience in one or more aspects of the following:
 - National implementation and enforcement legislation for CITES
 - Functions of a CITES Management Authority
 - Participation in CITES meetings and processes
 - Functions of a CITES Scientific Authority
 - Wildlife trade inspection procedures
 - Wildlife law enforcement and investigation procedures
 - Wildlife crime prosecution 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 work experience and proficiency in spoken and written Spanish 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 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

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.