

Tourism Planners, Visitor Center Exhibit Planners, Landscape Architects, Engineers

Gombe National Park, Tanzania

OPPORTUNITY: The US Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking Tourism Planners, Visitor Center Exhibit Designers, Landscape Architects, and Engineers to assist the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in addressing the following issues related to the Gombe National Park (GNP):

- environmentally friendly upgrading of JGI/TANAPA staff housing and other TANAPA structures;
- developing an outreach/interpretive plan and exhibit plan for the Kigoma visitor center (Kigoma is located approximately 10 miles from the GNP); and
- eco-tourism development planning, with a focus on community involvement. Includes, for example: identifying tourist destinations (scenic/historical sites) and associated issues relative to accommodating tourists; identifying tourism options outside the Park, and particularly how to involve the community; design of new trails and improvement of existing trails; design of simple, overnight visitor infrastructure (cabins, tents, etc).

Teams will also be asked to identify relevant training needs for community members and appropriate TANAPA and JGI staff.

From this recruitment, DOI-ITAP will assemble an initial team of two to four specialists. This initial team will take a broad look at the issues listed above and provide specialized recommendations to JGI and TANAPA. As follow-up, specialized teams may be selected from this recruitment to fill future assignments.

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 US Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

DOI-ITAP has worked at a number of locations in Tanzania since 1997. Technical assistance activities have touched on a variety of themes, including law enforcement training for rangers, design and construction of roads within protected areas, management of marine protected areas, tourism planning, and environmental interpretation activities.

The Gombe National Park (GNP) represents a new site for DOI-ITAP. GNP, located in western Tanzania along the Albertine arm of the Great Rift Valley, was established in

1968 and at approximately 32 sq miles in size is the smallest of Tanzania's national parks. The Park is bio-rich and is particularly known for its population of the eastern subspecies of chimpanzee. Jane Goodall began her long-term studies of wild chimpanzees in Gombe in 1960. In addition to chimpanzees, Gombe has a rich primate community that includes Olive baboons, red colobus monkeys, red-tailed monkeys, and others. A diverse avian (over 250 species) and mammal (at least 35 species) fauna are present. Gombe lies at a junction where West African forest and East African woodland and grassland meet. The area includes a site where Livingstone and Stanley camped while searching for the source of the Nile River in 1871.

GNP is experiencing pressure from tourism and an expanding human population around its perimeter. A role of DOI-ITAP is to provide TANAPA and JGI staff with the appropriate "tools" to address these growing pressures.

ASSIGNMENT: This detail will be conducted as an approximate two-week assignment, and will be based out of JGI facilities in Gombe National Park. 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 Tanzania, the DOI specialists selected for this assignment will work closely with the appropriate JGI and TANAPA staff.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to occur in spring of FY 09, with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, and our Tanzanian partners.

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 Gombe National Park.

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 either tourism planning, visitor center design and exhibit planning, or protected areas infrastructure (staff housing, tourist facilities, ranger stations, etc) design and construction.
- Experience in teaching and mentoring is desirable.
- 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, particularly in the tropics.

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:

Tonya Savoy, International Program Assistant
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS-3530
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-3048
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: tonya_savoy@ios.doi.gov

Please contact Barbara Pitkin, DOI-ITAP Program Manager
(Barbara_Pitkin@ios.doi.gov) or Marc Weitzel (marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov; 805/644-5185)
with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB January 16, 2009.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (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.