



Short Term Assignment Water Management and Technical Expertise for the Ambassador's Water Experts Program (AWEP)

Worldwide

[2021-2023]

Opportunity

The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking experts for 7-14 days assignments to provide technical assistance on a wide range of water related management challenges to various stakeholders in strategically identified countries. These technical visits are intended to highlight the strategic priorities under the U.S. Government's Global Water Strategy (https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/Global_Water_Strategy_2017_final_508v2.pdf).

Target countries include the following Global Water Strategy priorities: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Nepal, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Proposals for technical visits are not limited to this list of countries and will be seriously considered, particularly for countries in the Mekong River Basin. Proposed activities should be achievable in a single trip by one individual, with exceptions.

NOTE: The purpose of this recruitment is to establish a roster of specialists that might be available throughout the life of the project. Previous applicants to the Water Ambassadors Program do not need to apply again.

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 the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. DOI-ITAP has managed short- and long-term multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

The Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) has engaged DOI-ITAP to provide technical support under the Water Ambassadors Program (WAP). The WAP's overarching objective is to promote sound and sustainable management of water resources for countries facing water related challenges. The program was established as a response to the Department of State's mandate under the Water for the World Act of 2014. The program's primary purpose is to support technical visits by water ambassadors on the basis of the four strategic objectives under the U.S. Government's Global Water Strategy.

These include the following:

- Increasing sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, and the adoption of key hygiene behaviors;
- Encouraging the sound management and protection of freshwater resources;
- Promoting cooperation on shared waters; and,
- Strengthening water-sector governance, financing, and institutions.

ASSIGNMENT

ITAP anticipates needing up to 45 technical experts, throughout the life of the program, to travel to yet to be identified countries. Target countries will likely be those noted under the Water for the World Act, or those in which a U.S. Embassy has requested assistance.

Each visit will deploy one technical experts, for up to a two weeks, and may involve a combination of activities such as meetings with high level officials from key government agencies and/or the private sector, one on one mentoring, providing a technical workshop and other types of technical presentations, and developing a written technical assessment. A briefing at the U.S. embassy and a trip report with recommendations for next steps will also be required.

The themes that are covered under this program are diverse, and include the following: hydrology, hydropower, water resource dispute management, irrigation, water sanitization, water quality management, flood prevention, and water reclamation. You are encouraged to include with your application a simple proposal on a particular issue in a particular country or series of countries, but this is not a requirement to apply.

COVID-19 NOTE: DOI-ITAP is closely monitoring the global COVID-19 pandemic. Per official State Department guidance, all AWEP activities not able to be safely conducted in-person will be organized virtually or, if necessary, postponed until conditions improve.

SCHEDULE

These visits are expected to last from 1-2 weeks in country. Project implementation will last from the beginning of 2021 to the end of fiscal year 2023.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES

All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP and/or our in-country counterparts. Background material and briefings (pre-trip planning calls, possibly on a biweekly basis) will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers and U.S. Embassy staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three weeks of the completion of each trip, the team will provide DOI-ITAP managers a brief draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future actions. NPS travelers will also submit this report to their Office of International Affairs.

COSTS

DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The salaries of the technical experts, however, will be paid by their employing agency or office for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation. A daily \$250 honorarium rate is available to compensate members of the private sector or retirees.

Please note that travel expenses will not count against Bureau travel ceilings.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Have demonstrated professional experience in the field of hydrology, hydropower, or other applicable water resources management themes;
- Hold a B.S., M.S., or PhD in a related field;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Have previous international experience;
- note any language skills

As noted above, applications can include a proposal for a technical visit (one page), but this is not a requirement.

If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary (see below).

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing direct, relevant work experience, related to the skills listed under application requirements. Please submit electronically to Elizabeth Goffi (Elizabeth_Goffi@ios.doi.gov) with the subject: "Water Ambassadors Program"
 - Cover letter and resume should be sent as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_JOB TITLE"
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.

All questions can be directed to Elizabeth Goffi (Elizabeth_Goffi@ios.doi.gov), ITAP Project Manager for AWEF.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The entire selection process may take several weeks. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by email. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Managers listed above.**

FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR EMPLOYEES

All applicants must secure approval from their supervisors to apply for an ITAP assignment. Supervisors will then adhere to their Bureau requirements for any further approvals required by the Bureau. For Bureau requirements, applicants should contact their appropriate Bureau International Affairs Point of Contact. A complete list of those POCs follows. All NPS, BOR and BLM applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs when they submit their applications to ITAP.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| BIA | Ashley Fry | |
| BLM | Ryan Witt | <u>202-912-7562</u> |
| BOR | Jeff Morris | <u>303-445-3373</u> |
| FWS | Doris Burnette | <u>703-358-1999</u> |
| FWS | Lillian Moore | <u>703-358-2587</u> |
| BSEE | Julie Fleming | <u>703-787-1681</u> |
| NPS | Rudy D'Alessandro | <u>202-354-1805</u> |
| BOEM | Emily Lindow | <u>202-513-0825</u> |
| OSMRE | Sterling Rideout | <u>202-208-2868</u> |
| USGS | Kevin Kunkel | <u>703-648-6206</u> |
| ONRR | Chris Mentasti | <u>202-513-0614</u> |
| OS | Tabitha Anderson | <u>202-208-3624</u> |
| OWF | Jeremy West | <u>202-208-7262</u> |
| DOI Passports and Visas | Tiffany Cephas | <u>202-208-5292</u> |
| DOI Passports and Visas | Crystal Franklin | <u>202-208-5292</u> |

Please note that ITAP travel does not require the use of a field office credit card and travel will not count towards 'travel caps.'