



Short-Term Assignment

Support to Destination Arctic Circle, Qeqqata Municipality GREENLAND

Summer 2023

OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program is seeking technical experts to assist with designing a re-route of the Arctic Circle Trail.

Needed areas of expertise include:

- An understanding of best practices in trail design, construction, and maintenance, ideally in an Arctic environment
- Backcountry trail planning:
 - Experience in providing in-field trails assessment
 - Knowledge of trailblazing and marking systems for the Arctic environment
- General trail maintenance, to include:
 - Waste disposal
 - General knowledge of trailside huts, including maintenance and placement
 - Protecting and rehabilitating fragile ecosystems
- Engagement with local communities
- Familiarity with natural, historical, and cultural resource management in the context of trail design
- Knowledge of methods used to collect visitor engagement and visitor use data
 - Influencing hiker behavior
 - Leave No Trace principals

***DOI-ITAP may recruit one or more experts to meet the full range of technical expertise required**

BACKGROUND

The Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) provides technical assistance to countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis (i.e. without appropriated funds). The program operates across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of State, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. DOI-ITAP has managed multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

DOI-ITAP is currently managing a three-year project, funded by the State Department, to support the development of sustainable tourism in Greenland. The country is branding itself as a prime destination for adventure tourism with the intention that growth in the tourism sector will bring economic benefits. This DOI-ITAP activity aims to expand U.S. Government engagement and partnerships with Greenland and Greenlandic entities via government-to-government interactions and technical assistance engagements aimed at supporting Greenland in building a sustainable, well-planned, heritage and adventure-focused tourism industry.

One facet of this work is the creation of a trails network, with an initial focus on strengthening the established Arctic Circle Trail. The southern portion of the trail requires re-routing to maintain its remote, wilderness experience. The trail is managed by Destination Arctic Circle, the tourism promotion body for Arctic Circle Business which represents businesses in the Qeqqata Municipality, Greenland.

ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this project is to provide technical assistance to Destination Arctic Circle (DAC), in support of a project to re-route a portion of the Arctic Circle Trail (ACT). The ACT is Greenland's most famous long-distance hike and one of the oldest in the Arctic. It stretches for approximately 100 miles between Kangerlussuaq and Sisimiut (from icecap to ocean) and traverses the Aasivissuit – Nipisat World Heritage Site. Trail redesign is necessitated by an anticipated increase in use, planned construction of an ATV trail that will overlap parts of the trail, protection of sensitive ecosystems, and cultural resources.

DUTIES

The expert(s) will work in close collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers, DAC, and local partners throughout the implementation. Activities may include some or all of the following:

1. Travel to Greenland in July 2023 to provide technical expertise to DAC. This will involve working closely with the DAC Trails and Content Manager
2. In-field, trail design and troubleshooting for trail re-route through backcountry area, to include hiking up to 100 miles through rugged terrain along the ACT over a 2-week period, self-sufficient camping in remote locations, and the ability to carry all equipment and supplies needed for the field work
3. Pre-trip coordination calls with DOI-ITAP and DAC
4. Desktop research and review of relevant literature regarding current best practices, regulations, and corresponding environmental and social issues related to trail design

- and maintenance in an Arctic environment
5. On-site meetings with DAC staff and other relevant parties to discuss findings, implementation plan, etc.
 6. Identification and prioritization of key areas where DAC and partners might work to establish mutually beneficial practices to allow for trail construction, ongoing maintenance, and collection of visitor use data
 7. Preparation of a technical assessment/final report for DOI-ITAP and DAC
 8. Presentation of findings to DOI-ITAP, DAC and other partners as identified

SCHEDULE

This recruitment is specifically for a two to three-week trip to Greenland in July 2023 with associated pre and post trip activities. Depending on availability and project needs, the appointed expert(s) may also be selected for future activities, asked to provide assistance remotely, or to host study tours at DOI sites.

COSTS

DOI-ITAP will cover all costs associated with this assignment (e.g., round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, travel insurance, immunizations, official passport, and visa fees, per diem, etc.). DOI team member salaries will be paid by their respective employing DOI agency for the duration of the assignment. Please note: DOI-ITAP travel does not count against Bureau travel ceilings.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Demonstrate technical expertise in one or more of the areas listed;
- Preference given to current or retired employee of DOI. Employees and retirees of other agencies are also encouraged to apply;
- Good communication skills;
- Have working experience (preferred) or knowledge of Arctic ecosystems;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of professional peers, agencies and stakeholders of diverse ethnic or cultural affiliations;
- No additional language required.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons should email a cover letter and resume as a single pdf document summarizing relevant experience, together with a note indicating supervisor approval (if applicable), to Julia_Welch@ios.doi.gov. Please use the subject line "FULLNAME_BUREAU_Greenland Trails".

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than May 24, 2023. Applications received after this date may be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

All DOI 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. All **NPS, BOR, and BLM applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs** when

they submit their application. If you are employed with FWS/OLE, please do not respond directly to this recruitment. FWS/OLE recruitment for ITAP assignments is handled through FWS/OLE HQ.

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

DOI-ITAP reviews applications on a rolling basis. Due to project needs, the selection process will be expedited and is likely to take 2-3 weeks. Short listed candidates will be invited to complete a brief virtual interview using Teams, after which DOI-ITAP will notify all applicants of the final selection results by email. **The position is open to anyone that meets the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Manager.** Recipients of this notice are encouraged to forward the announcement to any individuals or agencies that may be interested. If you believe you have received this in error or would like to be taken off the distribution list, please inquire with the Project Manager. Applicants not selected for this announcement will have their resumes retained for consideration for future ITAP projects.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Julia Welch-DOI-ITAP Project Manager-Asia, Pacific Islands, and the Arctic, at: Julia_Welch@ios.doi.gov