

# Short Term Assignment

## Remote Sensing and Land Cover Mapping

### Experts

#### South East Asia and Africa

#### Summer, Fall, Winter 2013

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking two or more qualified experts with extensive experience in land cover mapping using remote sensing techniques and Landsat satellite observations for 1 to 2 week capacity training assignments in either Southeast Asia or Africa.

**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 U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided funds to the DOI International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) to enhance the capacity of developing country partners to improve techniques to generate and/or update existing land cover information using satellite imagery. This project is called Land Cover for Climate (LC4Climate). Land cover and land use data are critical components for climate monitoring applications such as: greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reports, measuring rates of deforestation (REDD+), and for low emission development strategies (LEDS). An important secondary objective is to use the national level land cover datasets to improve the high resolution global land cover datasets.

The LC4Climate project is focused on various countries in Southeast Asia and Africa. The assignment for the first capacity training is to work with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to increase the Information, Knowledge, and Management Program (IKMP) capacity in remote sensing and land cover mapping. Attendees at the training will also include government mapping and environmental representatives from the MRC member countries of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia,

**ASSIGNMENT:** ITAP is seeking teams of remote sensing and land cover mapping experts to provide capacity training in satellite image processing and land cover mapping methodologies such as: atmospheric correction, building image composites, land cover classification algorithms, selecting training and validation data for land cover mapping, accuracy assessment techniques, and land cover change dynamics. A team of 2 trainers will be selected for the first assignment.

**SCHEDULE:** This first assignment is expected to cover a 1 week period from June 10-14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The capacity training will be provided in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. There may be an opportunity to extend this travel to cover a scoping trip to Vietnam.

**PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES:** All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP and/or our in-country counterpart. Background material and briefings 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 the trip, the individual will provide the 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 team members, however, will be paid by their employing DOI agency** for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation. Stipends, or other forms of compensation, are **NOT** available for retiree candidates. Please note that travel expenses will **NOT** count against Bureau travel ceilings.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have demonstrated experience in the use of remote sensing using Landsat satellite imagery or other higher resolution imagery;
- Have extensive experience in land cover mapping, including classification systems;
- Be knowledgeable about collecting ground truth data and accuracy assessment methods;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- No required language proficiency, but please indicate whether you have some French proficiency;
- Previous international experience is desirable, particularly experience with Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, or countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in other countries.

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, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary (see below).**

**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 must:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing direct, relevant work experience, related to the skills listed under application requirements. Please submit electronically to Jean Parcher, (202 512-0840, [jean\\_parcher@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jean_parcher@ios.doi.gov)) with the subject: "Land Cover for Climate"
  - Cover letter and resume should be send 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 applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Jean Parcher.

**All NPS applicants** should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro ([rudy\\_dalessandro@nps.gov](mailto:rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov)) in the NPS Office of International Affairs. All NPS applicants must have the approval to apply from their Associate Director or Regional Director. *ADs/RDs fully encourage qualified NPS staff to apply; securing the approval of the ADs/RDs before applying is intended to ensure that supervisory chains are aware of the potential for ITAP engagement.*

**All BLM applicants** should copy their applications to Olivia Sierra ([osierra@blm.gov](mailto:osierra@blm.gov)) in the BLM Office of International Affairs. BLM applicants **must** have the approval of their immediate supervisor to apply.

**All USGS applicants** should copy their applications to Victor Labson ([vlabson@usgs.gov](mailto:vlabson@usgs.gov)), Director of the Office of International Programs.

**Employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement** are required to have supervisory approval prior to submitting an application.

**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

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 telephone, email or letter. **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 Manager listed above.**