

Protected Area Management Experts needed for Short-Term Assessments in Bamyan Province, Afghanistan

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking candidates with backgrounds in planning for protected area management to provide technical assistance in Bamyan Province, located in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan. The main objective of this assignment would be to evaluate and advise on how best to implement the country's National Protected Area Systems Plan in this region, including the existing and proposed priority protected areas of Band-e Amir and Ajar Valley.

The selected candidates would participate in a two-week assignment to take place in Afghanistan during the Spring of 2012. The technical assistance will require areas of expertise in one of the following (or similar) areas:

- Protected area planning and management
- Knowledge and experience in working with conservation partnerships (e.g., park associations, foundations) for long-term sustainability of protected areas

This assignment will involve close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) along with the provincial government of Bamyan and local communities of Shah Foladi in Bamyan, as well as the national government. Further, DOI-ITAP will be working very closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Embassy, and the Department of Defense.

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 U.S. State Department, USAID, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

UNEP has been advising and supporting the Afghanistan government in mainstreaming environment and environmental management in Afghanistan since 2002. Bamyan has historic precedent as an adventure destination for Afghans and outsiders alike. This area is considered to be the cultural capital of the Hazara ethnic group, and was a key stop along the Silk Road, crossed by Alexander and Genghis Khan, and contains structures and architecture thousands of years old.

ASSIGNMENT: The purpose of this technical assistance assignment is to meet with important stakeholders, conduct field assessments and gather necessary information to determine how best to implement the National Protected Area Systems Plan.

SCHEDULE: This assessment assignment is tentatively scheduled to take place in Spring of 2012.

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 via phone and email.

Within three weeks of completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a draft report focusing on the trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future related training and relevant technical assistance in Afghanistan.

COSTS: UNEP 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 be an excellent facilitator with experience in the development and delivery of technical assistance on protected areas management;
- Must have theoretical and practical knowledge of best practices in protected areas management and planning for protected areas;
- 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;
- Experience in Afghanistan or nearby countries is desirable;
- Previous international experience is desirable; and
- Knowledge of any local languages desirable, but not necessary.

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. **Please have all application materials submitted by January 15, 2012.** A form SF-171 is acceptable. Please submit applications (electronically is preferred) with the subject line **Protected Area Assessment: Afghanistan** to:

Angel Cordova
Email: angel_cordova@ios.doi.gov
Phone: 202-513-7734

Please contact Barbara Pitkin at: barbara_pitkin@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-5221 with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible, as applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted on a rolling basis.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

As per NPS policy, NPS employees cannot travel for DOI-ITAP twice within a 12 month period.

Application Process

A short list 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. Every effort will be made to select applicants who have not yet had the opportunity to participate on an ITAP assignment.

This assignment will be planned monitoring the security situation carefully and will be executed in full collaboration with and under the guidance of the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan.