

Short Term Assignment Protected Areas Management and Tourism Development Specialists Bangladesh Winter 2012

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking two specialists, one with extensive hands-on experience in the full range of protected areas operations, the other with a community and protected areas tourism development background. Preference will be given to those applicants that have an extensive background in both disciplines. The specialists will accompany a DOI-ITAP project manager to Bangladesh to meet with key stakeholders and subsequently develop a mutually agreed upon work plan that details a DOI-ITAP technical assistance program scheduled to be delivered in FY'13-14.

Overview of DOI-ITAP: 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.

Background to this Assignment: Bangladesh's natural resources, in addition to being highly vulnerable to climate change induced impacts, are increasingly threatened by the demands of a growing population. At least seventy percent of the population depends on the country's wetlands and forests for their livelihood, and as such these resources, in particular, are under severe pressure. Massive deforestation, for example, is an ongoing issue, with natural forests now representing less than six percent of the country's total land area. The intense level of public use pressure impacts the health of these resources and makes them even more susceptible to the negative influences of climate change. Given the endangered status of the country's forests, linked to population pressure and climate change, and in light of the valuable role that sustainably managed forest habitat can play in helping mitigate climate change impacts, USAID/Bangladesh is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh to reduce threats and strengthen the integrity of the remaining forests that are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department, within the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

USAID/Bangladesh asked DOI-ITAP for a Scope of Work delineating how DOI would work with the Forest Department, and other key stakeholders, to reduce climate change vulnerability and public use threats to forests areas managed by the Department. Under the provisions of the proposed SOW, DOI-ITAP aims to launch activities that will ultimately enhance the health of these forest resources and thus increase their resiliency to climate change by : a) improving the overall management of the country's protected areas system, targeting forest resources in particular; and b) focusing on developing the

protected areas system as a prime tourist destination, and promoting community based tourism as an eco-friendly tool to enhance the livelihoods of local communities, and thus reduce or eliminate unsustainable public use pressure on forest resources. Initially targeting two key protected areas, Lawachara National Park and Teknaf Game Reserve, DOI-ITAP will work closely with in-country counterparts to develop a best practice, comprehensive approach to sustainable ecotourism development, one that can potentially be exported throughout the country's protected areas system. DOI-ITAP will prioritize capacity building exercises involving the Forest Department's protected area management staff and key stakeholders, particularly those from the local communities. Four major project components are defined in the proposed SOW, "General Protected Areas Management Capacity Building", "Tourism and Visitor Services Development", "Infrastructure Design and Development", and "Community Involvement". These components are designed to strengthen the management of the system of protected areas and their associated resources by enhancing stakeholder skills and increasing the level of professional coordination between protected areas staff and local communities; reduce unsustainable public use pressures on resources, particularly forest resources; and help to ensure that all interested parties, particularly the communities, receive maximum benefits from eco-friendly tourism and other sustainably managed protected area services. Ultimately, as a result, these healthier, better managed protected areas, and their associated resources, will offer much more resilience to climate change- induced impacts.

ASSIGNMENT: The DOI-ITAP Assessment Team will ground-truth, evaluate, and refine, as needed, all activities outlined in the proposed SOW. The team will meet with all key stakeholders in Dhaka and at project field sites. The Assessment Team will then develop a detailed annual, or if appropriate multi-year, mutually agreed upon work plan.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to cover a maximum two week period sometime in Winter 2012, with specific travel dates agreeable to all parties. Assessment efforts will be conducted in the capital of Dhaka and at proposed field sites.

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 USAID 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, and copies of any other work products. NPS travelers will also submit this report to their Office of International Affairs.

The specialists selected for this assignment must be available for pre-deployment planning efforts (usually a series of conference calls, reading background material, etc) and post-trip wrap-up efforts, which may include finalizing work products. Pre-and post-trip planning and wrap-up activities usually in total account for a few hours. Team members will be expected to

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. No stipends or other compensation is available for retiree candidates.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Must have demonstrated hands-on, professional experience in managing protected areas, particularly related to daily operations; or
- Must have extensive professional experience in the full range of tourism development activities, particularly related to protected areas and local communities; or, preferably
- Have extensive professional experience in both protected areas management and tourism development.
- Have excellent writing and interpersonal skills;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- No language skills are required, but please note if you are conversant in a foreign language.
- Previous international experience is desirable, particularly with protected areas management and/or tourism development. If none, please note if you

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.

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 Marc Weitzel, Senior Advisor/Senior Program Manager (805/671-9746; marc.weitzel@ios.doi.gov) **and** Tanya Ahmady (202/208-3624; tanya.ahmady@ios.doi.gov) with the subject line: "Protected Areas Management and Tourism Development Specialists- Bangladesh".
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than 30 July 2012. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Questions can be directed to the contact information above for Marc Weitzel.

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

All BLM applicants should also copy their applications to Olivia Sierra (osierra@blm.gov) in the BLM Office of International Affairs.

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 Managers listed above.**