

Short Term Assignment

Protected Areas Managers for Onsite Mentoring

Bangladesh

Fall 2013 – Fall 2015

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking candidates with a strong protected areas management background for 5-8 week technical assistance assignments to Bangladesh. Candidates must have a strong natural resource conservation background that includes extensive experience in the multiple aspects of managing protected areas. The ideal candidate also has extensive experience in mentoring and training.

Note: applicants who applied for the original Bangladesh recruitment do not need to resend a resume, although they are required to send a new cover letter outlining their interest/expertise in, and availability for the mentoring assignment (see How to Apply below).

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.

Under the direction of USAID/Bangladesh, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) will work with the Bangladesh Forest Department, and other key stakeholders, to: reduce climate change vulnerability and public use threats to forests, parks, and game reserves managed by the Department; enhance the visitor experience; and assist in the education of visitors with the goal of building public support for protecting and strengthening the country’s remarkable natural resources. The basic purpose of this work is to carry out conservation activities at two targeted protected areas (Lawachara National Park and Teknaf Game Reserve) to promote sustainable, climate change-resilient forest ecosystems; while encouraging high-quality, low-impact visitor use of those protected areas to build support for conservation, with the involvement of the indigenous communities.

The protected areas of Bangladesh are prime tourist destinations and they conserve the most significant remaining natural resources – in particular, forest and cultural resources.

These sites provide extensive opportunities to enhance conservation awareness with the general public and they provide numerous economic benefits to the surrounding communities. Thus, in particular, developing and managing a professional, efficient visitor support program, one that encompasses community needs, is a basic management approach.

To this end, DOI-ITAP will 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. 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. The primary focus of this DOI-ITAP project will fall under the overall umbrella of ***Integrating Tourism and Visitor Services into Protected Area Management***, with associated major components that include: General Orientation, Tourism and Visitor Services Development, Facilities/Infrastructure Design and Development, and Community Involvement.

ASSIGNMENT: ITAP is soliciting resumes for experts in protected areas management for onsite mentoring. When applying please clearly note on your cover memo that you are applying for the protected areas management onsite mentor position. Your name will be retained on our roster for consideration as appropriate opportunities surface throughout the life of the project, which is expected to last at least two years. Once you apply you will receive a note confirming that you are on the roster. If your contact information changes at any time, please let us know.

Throughout the life of the project, at various intervals, we expect to post one protected areas management mentor onsite at each of the two protected areas: Lawachara National Park and Teknaf Game Reserve. Each DOI specialist will stay onsite at their assigned park for the duration of their assignment, with the exception of possible coordination trips to the capital, Dhaka. The primary responsibility of each DOI specialist will be to provide ongoing protected areas management mentoring for Lawachara and Teknaf staff as they work and address the multiple aspects of managing their protected area. The DOI mentor will likely also coordinate, as needed, with key community members, particularly at sites which are co-managed (Government of Bangladesh and community managed). The mentor may also provide short seminars or workshops (2-4 hours, half day in duration, for example) on relevant themes at their assigned location.

SCHEDULE: Field implementation for the Bangladesh project is expected to begin in early in FY'14 and continue through at least the first quarter of 2015. Each protected areas management onsite mentoring mission will consist of approximately 5-8 weeks in-country (excludes international travel time). The protected areas management onsite mentoring missions will likely include infrequent trips to the capital of Dhaka in addition to time in one of the following field sites: Lawachara National Park and Teknaf Game Reserve.

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/USAID staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email to discuss technical aspects of the project. Successful applicants can expect to spend a number of hours in pre-trip planning and post-trip wrap up activities.

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, in addition to any other work products generated during the assignment. 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.). For current DOI employees, **DOI-ITAP expects to be able to reimburse salary for the in-country** time of the international assignment, but not for the period covering pre- and post-trip planning. **A stipend is expected to be** 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 extensive experience and a strong professional background in multiple aspects of contemporary protected areas management;
- Have demonstrated experience in mentoring and training;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;

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).

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, DOI-ITAP Senior Advisor (808/671-9746, marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov), and Kim Forrest, FWS Wildlife Refuge Manager (209/826-3508, Kim_Forrest@fws.gov) with the subject: "Assignment Bangladesh Protected Areas Management Mentors"
 - Cover letter and resume should be send as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_JOB TITLE". If known at this time, in your cover note please indicate any blackout dates, throughout the life of the project, that you would not be available for a mentoring assignment.
 - **Note: if you have already applied for the original Bangladesh recruitment you do not have to resend a resume, although you will still have to send a new cover letter outlining your interest/expertise in this mentoring assignment.**
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than August 12th. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Marc Weitzel.

All 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. *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) in the BLM Office of International Affairs. BLM applicants **must** have the approval of their immediate supervisor to apply.

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 Managers listed above.**