Short Term Assignment
Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining
Costa Rica
Spring 2013

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking an expert to provide approximately 1 weeks of technical assistance in Costa Rica.

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.

DOI-ITAP is providing technical assistance on regulation of the mining industry in Costa Rica under the environmental cooperation agreement of the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

ASSIGNMENT: ITAP is seeking experts in alternatives to mercury in small-scale gold mining, and mercury testing and remediation.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to cover a 1 week period in late Spring 2012.

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 s**alaries 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 providing training or technical assistance;
- Have extensive experience in alternatives to mercury in small-scale gold mining, or mercury testing and remediation;
- Be knowledgeable about mining regulation in developing countries;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Spanish language proficiency is preferred.
- Previous professional experience in Latin America is preferred.

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 Angel Cordova (angel_cordova@ios.doi.gov, 202-513-7734) and Jason Riley (Jason_riley@ios.doi.gov, 805-225-1161) with the subject: "ASGM Costa Rica"
    - Cover letter and resume should be sent 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 **March 1, 2013.** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Jason Riley.

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 also 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.**