

Water Management Specialists Vashlovani Protected Areas Republic of Georgia Autumn 2011

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking two water management specialists to assess water availability, extraction and delivery options, and analyze current and predicted water consumption by visitors in the Vashlovani Protected Areas of the Republic of Georgia. The short-term post would require travel to Georgia for approximately two weeks in addition to pre-trip planning and post-trip debriefing and reporting.

Special Expertise Required:

- Professional experience with water usage analysis
- Ability to identify potential water sources based on maps and historical surveys
- Understanding of efficient design and use of water supply systems in protected areas, particularly low cost, energy efficient options.
- Ability to work cross-culturally and adapt recommendations to be both technically accurate and effective while working in the local culture.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. Since 1995, the program has operated in over 50 countries, and is currently active in seventeen countries with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided funds to DOI-ITAP to implement watershed management projects in the Republic of Georgia. As part of this project, DOI-ITAP plans to cooperate with the Agency for Protected Areas in Georgia in their aim to use water efficiently in their protected areas by assisting in an initial feasibility study of water availability, water usage, and water delivery options in the Vashlovani Protected Areas.

Vashlovani Nature Reserve was established in 1935 and designated as a National Park and Monuments in 2003. The collection forms the Vashlovani Protected Areas, which serve the purpose of preservation of semi-arid landscapes and the unique forests of juniper and pistachio trees. VPAs are located in the southeastern-most edge of the Republic of Georgia, bordering Azerbaijan. Each year they receive approximately 2500 visitors; these numbers are expected to increase over time.

Infrastructure for these PAs was developed through a joint program between the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility in 2007-2009. Small tourism and operational structures, including ranger shelters, ranger stations, bungalows, picnic sites with toilets and fire places, horse shelters, and more are spread throughout VPA. Water tanks were installed to serve as water supply for the field infrastructure, and are periodically refilled by trucking in water. Keeping these filled is difficult, given the rate of use by park visitors. For the proper operation and maintenance of Vashlovani PAs, provision of an enhanced water supply system and/or application of water conservation technologies is urgently needed.

Addressing this challenge will improve the effectiveness and efficiency by which PA staff can work, as well as create a better, more attractive park for visitors.

To achieve this result, a hydrological survey and additional infrastructure need to be completed. In order to effectively develop these, a pre-feasibility study of water use and needs is required

ASSIGNMENT: The overall goal of the project is to increase effectiveness of performance by VPA administration, improve biodiversity conservation capabilities, and attract more visitors to Vashlovani.

Objectives of this assignment are:

- Conduct prefeasibility survey using relevant data and field observations to identify the extractive potential of the indigenous water supply in Vashlovani PAs and to improve water use technologies, applying the best practices of U.S. protected areas facilities.
 - Assess current use and management of, and need for, water resources in the park using management plans, maps of the area, and observed park operations.
 - Analyze possible solutions and draft recommendations for the use of alternative technologies appropriate to arid and semi-arid environments.
 - Special attention paid to five specific sites of interest
 - Conduct visual assessment of potential water sources.
 - Determine (to the degree possible) feasible drilling sites.
- Develop an action plan for next steps and identify components of the proposed hydrological survey based on the results of prefeasibility study.

The prefeasibility assessment report shall incorporate the minimum following deliverables:

- Hydrological survey action plan, including professional assessment of survey needs and action plan outlining survey protocols.
- Recommendations of feasibility and potential locations for well development, and an analysis of other water extraction and water delivery options.
- Guidelines for sustainable consumption of water resources and resources needed for appropriate development of park facilities.

SCHEDULE: The two-week detail is anticipated to begin in late October 2011. There is some flexibility in the schedule; please explain any timing constraints you have in your application.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background material will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with the DOI-ITAP manager, team colleagues, in-country counterparts, and USAID representatives both before and after travel to the region. The selected individuals will communicate both over the phone and through e-mail on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance.

The selected technical assistance providers will furnish the DOI-ITAP manager with a brief draft report of the trip events, in addition to the formal action plan as described above, within three weeks of the completion of the each trip.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, health insurance, meals, immunizations, 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:

- Must be a current DOI employee or retiree;
- Must have demonstrated experience in the technical specialties detailed above;
- Must be willing to stay and work in a rural setting in an Eastern European country;
- Must have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Must be in excellent health.

Additional desirable qualifications include:

- Previous international experience, particularly experience with protected area systems in other countries (please indicate if you have been to Georgia and in what capacity); and

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

Candidates that reach the interview stage of the selection process must obtain supervisory approval for their participation in this program, including how comp time for travel will be spent.

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 Colleen Castle (colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov) with the subject: "Hydrological Survey, Georgia."
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **07 September 2011**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please contact Colleen Castle (at the above email address or 202-208-5160) or Marc Weitzel (marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov, 805-671-9746) with any questions.

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 who have traveled with DOI-ITAP within 12 months of the departure are ineligible.***

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted after the deadline. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take a few weeks, as resumes must be cleared in Georgia as well as by DOI/ITAP. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process, notification may be by telephone, email 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.