

# Short Term Assignment

## Protected Areas Transportation Planning

### Kingdom of Jordan

### Spring 2012

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking qualified experts on transportation planning criteria to work with in-country partners on the development of a management plan to suit a proposed new transportation system at system at Petra Archaeological Park in Jordan

**BACKGROUND:** DOI-ITAP provides technical assistance on a reimbursable basis to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise. The program is currently operating in approximately twenty countries on a wide variety of natural and cultural resource management issues with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided funds to DOI's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) to implement this project, named the Jordan Parks Project. The project is closely coordinated with the Petra Development Tourism Regional Authority whose Chairman reports directly to the Prime Minister of Jordan. The Jordan Parks Project aims to encourage economic growth via development of the Kingdom's cultural and natural tourism sites—for instance Petra Archaeological Park, Wadi Rum Nature Reserve, Aqaba Marine Park, and a number of other protected areas.

DOI-ITAP's key partners in Jordan include:

- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Petra Archaeological Park (PAP) and its management entity
- Siyaha, a tourism development project in Jordan

**ASSIGNMENT:** ITAP is seeking experts on environmentally friendly and efficient, small-scale transit systems within protected areas to provide short-term technical assistance to the Kingdom of Jordan. After being briefed on the current visitor flow and transportation plan, the DOI-ITAP team will travel to Jordan to assess the mode of transportation, develop relevant recommendations, and assist in drafting a management plan for the system that will address at a minimum the following themes:

- Visitor embarkation and disembarkation management including reception, waiting and servicing
- Schedule/routing management
- Staffing needs and organization/supervision system

- Vehicle safety and cleanliness, including maintenance

Petra Archaeological Park has long been challenged by the current pattern of visitor use, and developing an appropriate transportation plan is critical to the tourism experience as well as sustainability of the site.

The team will work consultatively with Siyaha, the organization that has led the development of the transit system, as well as PAP staff and management. The team will prepare a list of recommendations as well as the steps necessary to achieve them in the short and long term.

**SCHEDULE:** This assignment will involve approximately two to three weeks of in-country work, to be scheduled with a high degree of flexibility for setting dates amenable to selected candidates and their supervisors. The assignment will likely occur in the spring of 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 the DOI-ITAP manager on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance over phone and email. The preparation will include communicating with PAP, Siyaha, and USAID to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft trip report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future actions in Petra.

**COSTS:** The International Technical Assistance Program will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, 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:

- Preferably be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have extensive professional level experience in the development of protected areas planning documents, a working knowledge of environmentally friendly visitor transportation options or systems in biologically sensitive areas, and a knowledge of visitor services management.
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;

- Previous international experience is desirable and experience in the Middle East is an advantage;
- Arabic proficiency is welcomed, but not necessary for this assignment.

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 Colleen Castle ([colleen\\_castle@ios.doi.gov](mailto:colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov)) with the subject: "Transportation Planning, Jordan"
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **28 January 2012**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to Colleen Castle, the DOI-ITAP Jordan Parks Project Assistant, at 202-208-5160 or [colleen\\_castle@ios.doi.gov](mailto:colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov)) or Marc Weitzel, DOI-ITAP Senior Advisor and Jordan Parks Project Manager at 805-671-9746 or [marc\\_weitzel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov).

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro ([rudy\\_dalessandro@nps.gov](mailto: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.***

## **Application Process**

A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several months. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone or email.

The position is open to all applicants that 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.

