

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

COASTAL ZONE/CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT OR RESEARCH SPECIALISTS

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) seeks two individuals with extensive hands-on expertise in the management of or research related to coastal zones/islands that include coral reef habitat. In particular, individuals with a strong professional background in and thorough understanding of coral reef ecosystems are strongly encouraged to apply. In addition, individuals with extensive experience in developing and managing public-private partnerships in coastal environments are encouraged to apply. The two experts will participate in an in-depth assessment of priority management issues relative to the Republic of Maldives' highly impacted coral reef systems, and map out how DOI-ITAP and other partners can help address these concerns through a specialized technical assistance program. The team will likely be accompanied by a representative from the U.S. Department of State and a DOI-ITAP project manager.

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.

In partnership with the U.S. Department of State and the Republic of Maldives, DOI-ITAP is about to embark on a project that will assist the Maldives in addressing issues impacting the country's highly sensitive and endangered coral reefs and coastal zone areas.

The Republic of the Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean, south-southwest of India, is the smallest Asian country in terms of both land area and population. The Maldives includes 1,190 coral islands grouped into 26 atolls -- a total of 298 sq km of land base and 644 km of coastline. Two hundred of the islands are inhabited and, of those, 80 include tourist resorts. In terms of elevation, the Maldives is the lowest country on earth, with the highest elevation point being around 2.4 m. The country's capital and largest city is Male (population +/- 100,000), situated on the southern edge of North Male Atoll. Tourism and fishing are major factors in the country's economy.

Sea level rise is obviously a priority concern to the Maldives. Entire islands may face complete inundation. The country's coral reef habitats, in particular, are very susceptible to sea level rise and other climate change induced impacts. While sea level rise is a major problem, other human created issues can threaten the area's coral reefs, including coral mining and influences from poorly managed recreational activities (e.g., overfishing, dragging of boat anchors, etc).

To help address impacts, the DOI-ITAP assessment team will review relevant themes, that may include, but not be limited to:

- reviewing and strengthening national policy regarding coral reefs;
- strengthening the science involved in monitoring the health of coral reefs;

- enhancing the sustainable tourism potential of marine protected areas;
- promoting local community involvement in reef management activities (e.g., training community members as parabiologists that can carry out simple, but routine coral reef monitoring; training community members as visitor guides, etc);
- operational training of local/national natural resource law enforcement officials;
- developing a strong environmental education and outreach program;
- training in pollution response;
- promoting environmentally friendly tourism infrastructure;
- building capacity in adaptive management of marine protected areas;
- building capacity to engage in adaptation to climate change.

The assessment team will make recommendations on how DOI-ITAP and partners can provide technical assistance to address these and other issues. As noted above, strengthening existing, and developing and managing new public-private partnerships will be emphasized.

ASSIGNMENT: The assessment team will deploy in-country for up to a two week period. The team will visit appropriate field sites and meet with priority stakeholders. Recommendations will be developed and a technical assistance plan will be mapped out for the following +/- 12 month period.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to occur in late Summer/Early Fall of 2011, with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, our Maldivian, and State Department partners.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background materials will be provided to the selected individuals prior to the trip. 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 via email. A number of pre-trip planning calls will be needed to adequately prepare for this mission, in addition to other pre-trip preparatory work.

Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft report focusing on the trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future DOI-ITAP involvement.

COSTS: ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The salaries of the travelers 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 meet all the following criteria:

*Preference given to current or retired DOI employees and other USG employees. We encourage applicants from all federal agencies.

****SELECTIVE FACTOR: Must have professional natural resource management or research experience in coastal environments. Preference given to applicants with coral reef and island management or research experience.**

*Extensive experience developing and managing public-private partnerships, particularly in a coastal or marine environment.

*Experience in setting up and managing public and related stakeholder meetings

*Experience developing management plans, technical reports, and position papers.

*Must have a demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups.

*Must have demonstrated ability to coordinate with multiple partners and stakeholders.

*Previous international experience is desirable.

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.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

1. Send a formal résumé -- a form SF-171 is acceptable.
2. Send a cover letter, summarizing relevant work experience. Linking your experience to the factors listed under "Application Requirements" is preferred.

Please submit applications (electronic is preferred) to:

Angel Córdova
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS-3530
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: 202-513-7734
E-mail: angel_cordova@ios.doi.gov

Please contact Barbara Pitkin, DOI-ITAP Director (Barbara_Pitkin@ios.doi.gov; 202-208-5221) or Marc Weitzel, Senior Advisor (marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov; 805/671-9746) with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB June 30, 2011. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

All NPS applicants should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

Application Process

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several weeks. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

This position is open to all applicants who meet the stated requirements.