

Short Term Assignment

Marine Protected Areas Workshop Facilitation

Republic of Maldives

Summer 2012

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking up to two qualified experts with extensive marine protected areas (MPA) management experience (see APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS). The specialists will work with in-country partners to develop and conduct a multi-stakeholder workshop that will examine the current status of the country's MPA system and help define future system-wide objectives, particularly in light of potential climate change induced impacts. Assessing potential DOI-ITAP assistance in overall MPA capacity building is one expected product from the workshop.

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.

Using U. S. Department of State Economic Support Funds (ESF) DOI-TAP is establishing a technical assistance program in the Republic of the Maldives. This program will build capacity for innovative approaches to the adaptive management of the country's coral reefs in the face of climate change and other threats. DOI-ITAP is developing this program in partnership with the Maldives Marine Research Center (MRC), an entity of the Maldives Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. Under the initiative, DOI-ITAP will analyze the needs and opportunities in the Maldives through a series of workshops, provide targeted technical assistance and training in priority areas including coral reef monitoring and marine law enforcement, and assist in the development of a national marine resources training center.

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 plus), situated on the southern edge of North Male Atoll. Tourism and fishing are major factors in the country's economy.

ASSIGNMENT: ITAP is seeking experts on the management of marine protected areas to assist in facilitation of a workshop to discuss how the current national set of MPAs, which have been created largely in response to the tourist sector, can be selectively modified to become a network serving multiple purposes, including biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, thereby serving a broader set of stakeholders. The workshop would include key stakeholder representatives from both the public and private sectors, and possibly a certain degree of regional representation. This workshop will identify issues that may help refine future technical assistance efforts such as addressing adaptive natural resource management in the face of global climate change.

SCHEDULE: This assignment will involve approximately 2 weeks of in-country work in the summer of 2012, sometime between June and the end of August. Missions are scheduled with a high degree of flexibility for setting dates amenable to selected candidates and their supervisors. Its anticipated the first week in-country will be used to prepare for the workshop; however, an amount of pre-trip planning time at the team member's home duty station will also be required.

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 on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance over phone and email. The preparation will include communicating with DOI-ITAP project managers and team members to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP managers 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, medical insurance, 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:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- **SELECTIVE FACTOR:** Have extensive professional level experience in the management of marine protected areas, which ideally includes pre-establishment planning and the daily operation of such units;
- Have experience delivering capacity building and/or facilitating workshops on a natural resources management subject, in particular those efforts with a protected areas focus;
- 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 and experience internationally (this is preferable, although not a requirement);

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) with the subject: "MPA Workshop, Maldives"
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **06 April 2012**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to Colleen Castle, Project Assistant, at 202-208-5160 or colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov, or Marc Weitzel, Senior Advisor/Project Manager at 805-671-9746 or marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov.

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.***

All BLM applicants should also copy their applications to Olivia Sierra (osierra@blm.gov) in the BLM Office of International Affairs.

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.