

Short Term Assignment

Signage and Interpretation Planning

Morocco

March 2012

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking candidates with backgrounds in signage and interpretation planning to provide technical assistance and/or training to Morocco in order to strengthen domestic capacity to create interpretation plans and installations in protected areas. The selected candidates would participate in a 1 to 2 week assignment to take place in Morocco. The technical assistance will cover areas of expertise in one of the following areas:

- philosophy and techniques of interpretation,
- planning for system-wide branding as well as site-specific interpretive plans,
- planning for non-personal interpretive services such as wayfinding signs, orientation signs and interpretive waysides,
- techniques for coaching interpreters

This assignment will involve close collaboration with the Moroccan High Commission for Water, Forest and the Fight Against Desertification (HCEFLCD), which has responsibility for the country's protected areas.

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 organizations such as the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

In June 2010, DOI-ITAP signed an agreement with the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) to carry out activities that further environmental cooperation goals with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partner countries, build stronger diplomatic ties with those countries, and to improve FTA partner countries' ability to better manage their environment and natural resources. Morocco is one of the key countries targeted in the agreement. A series of technical assistance activities under this agreement has been developed in order to promote the development of Morocco's sustainable tourism sector and the long-term conservation of its biodiversity and natural resources.

ASSIGNMENT: ITAP is seeking experts on interpretation to provide instruction on methods of interpretation planning, installation of signage, and principles of effective interpretation for multiple parks in the Kingdom of Morocco. While details of the technical assistance are still being worked out the assignment would include time in the capital of Rabat, presenting the basics of interpretation planning, and time in at least one protected area to identify priorities for signage and interpretation development.

SCHEDULE: This assignment will involve approximately 1 to 2 weeks of in-country work beginning in mid-March 2012, followed by work back in the U.S. completing final trip reports and recommendations

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.

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;
- Have extensive professional-level experience in the principles of interpretation planning creation of signage and interpretive tools in protected areas;
- Have experience training audiences of varying levels of familiarity with the subject at hand;
- 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 in the Middle East/North Africa (this is preferable, although not a requirement);
- French proficiency is highly desirable 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) with the subject: "Signage/Interpretation, Morocco" If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **12 February 2012**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to Colleen Castle, the DOI-ITAP Project Assistant, at 202-208-5160 or colleen_castle@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.***

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.