

## **Sustainable Tourism / Protected Area Management Plans Capacity Building in Morocco**

**OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking candidates with backgrounds in sustainable tourism (ecotourism) to provide technical assistance and/or training to Morocco in order to strengthen domestic capacity to promote sustainable tourism principles and to manage protected areas. The selected candidates would develop and co-lead a two week training program to take place in Morocco in FY 2011 and FY 2012. This announcement will be used to select candidates for more than one assignment. The technical assistance will cover areas of expertise in one of the following (or similar) areas:

- Strengthening implementation of protected areas management strategies.
- Conserving and protecting natural and cultural resources as a foundation for tourism.
- Incorporating impact mitigation into tourism planning efforts; applying principles, guidelines and criteria for sustainable tourism.
- Understanding the gateway community's role in promoting sustainable tourism practices.
- Educating visitors and minimizing their impact for promoting sustainable tourism practices.
- Managing concessionaires to achieve environmental friendly tourism operations.

Moroccan participants will mainly come from the public sector and include government tourism and protected area planning officials at various levels within the organization. Concessionaires, community members, NGOs, and other private entities may also be present. Participants will be from areas throughout Morocco.

**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:** The technical assistance will be a two week in-country assignment (exact location TBD). Some time will be required at the home duty station for pre-trip preparation and

post-trip follow-up activities (e.g. final trip report and recommendations). While in country, the DOI specialists selected for this assignment will work closely with DOI-ITAP managers, and possibly members from the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism, protected areas managers and staff, and/or OES.

The assignment will involve working closely with DOI-ITAP and the Ministry of Tourism to develop the curriculum for the technical assistance and the structure of the training workshop, prior to the travel. Selected candidates will lead the in-country workshop, which may potentially include both classroom and field sessions as recommended by the selected candidates and the Ministry of Tourism.

**SCHEDULE:** The various technical assistance assignments will take place in FY 2011 and FY 2012.

**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 via phone and email.

Within three weeks of 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 related training and relevant technical assistance in Morocco.

**COSTS:** ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, per diem, 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:

- Preference given to current or retired DOI employees and other USG employees;
- Must be an excellent facilitator with experience in the delivery of training courses that focus on working with one or more of the following: protected areas management plans, sustainable tourism operations, mitigation of impacts of tourism activities on natural resources, sustainable infrastructure development;
- Must have theoretical and practical knowledge of protected areas management planning or sustainable tourism best practices from both the practical and the policy perspectives;
- 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;

- Experience in the Morocco, Northern Africa or the Middle East is desirable;
- Previous international experience is desirable; and
- French language speakers are 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 should send a resume or letter summarizing relevant work experience. A form SF-171 is acceptable. Please submit applications (electronically is preferred) to both:

Emily Kilcrease

Email: [emily\\_kilcrease@ios.doi.gov](mailto:emily_kilcrease@ios.doi.gov)

Subject line: Sustainable Tourism / Protected Areas Management, Morocco  
-and-

Tricia Bickley

Email: [patricia\\_bickley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:patricia_bickley@ios.doi.gov)

Subject line: Sustainable Tourism / Protected Areas Management, Morocco

Applicants must also complete the ITAP application form found at:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dF9jUWcwcFJKSXJXNkxIMWZ6cU56eFE6MA>

Please contact Emily Kilcrease (Tel: 202/208-7103; Email: [emily\\_kilcrease@ios.doi.gov](mailto:emily_kilcrease@ios.doi.gov)) or Tricia Bickley (Tel: 202/219-0187; Email: [patricia\\_bickley@ios.doi.gov](mailto:patricia_bickley@ios.doi.gov)) with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible, as applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted on a rolling basis.

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 cannot travel for DOI-ITAP twice within a 12 month period.***

## **Application Process**

A short list of 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.