

# Geospatial Specialist for Short-Term Assignment in Mozambique

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## Opportunity

The U.S. Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) seeks an individual with expertise in the following areas for a short-term overseas detail in Mozambique:

- Experience developing functional GIS for institutions or remote locations
- Experience in training end-users in GIS and GPS functionality

The selected specialist will assist Gorongosa National Park with an assessment of current GIS and high-res imagery capabilities and needs to help monitor activities in the park and adjacent buffer zones. The selected specialist is expected to work closely with DOI-ITAP and in-country partners in the weeks preceding travel in order to understand the needs and requirements of the assignment.

## Background

DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program currently operates across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Mount Gorongosa above 700 meters was recently added to Gorongosa National Park. The threat of deforestation poses a major conservation challenge to Mount Gorongosa, which is situated northwest of the original 4,000 square kilometer park and is one of the few remaining rainforests of eastern Africa. The entire ecosystem of the Mountain and the floodplain will be affected if Mount Gorongosa loses forest due to slash and burn agriculture practices. The Park and its communities will lose their main source of fresh water, as the mountain will no longer soak up the annual rainfall and release it onto the plains throughout the year. Deforestation will cause large barren patches to erode, thereby causing silt to build up within and block waterways. Thus, tree planting is necessary to control erosion; conservation education measures will protect the biodiversity on the mountain and on the plains by changing unsustainable agricultural practices by local communities; and income-generating projects and organic farming trainings provide communities with sustainable alternatives to current unsustainable farming practices that threaten the forest and water supply. Community involvement in eco-tourism and sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products will also provide sustainable alternatives to current unsustainable practices that will take the pressure off of local natural resources.

Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP, [www.gorongosa.net](http://www.gorongosa.net)) has signed a twenty-year agreement with the Government of Mozambique to restore Gorongosa National Park, which – while once the gem of African safari destinations – was devastated in thirty years of conflict. With support from USAID and

involvement from the communities on Mount Gorongosa, the mountain master plan currently under development with support from GRP is expected to address:

- reforestation
- sustainable agriculture
- education
- enforcement
- ecotourism
- development of other alternative livelihoods

## **Assignment**

The specialist will be deployed in Mozambique for approximately 1 week, focusing on field work with multiple stakeholders and partners. Significant planning and coordination time will be required at the home duty station for pre-trip preparation, and additional time will be necessary for post-trip follow-up activities (e.g., final trip report, guidelines, other outputs, etc.). While in Mozambique, the specialist will work closely with GRP representatives and other appropriate Government of Mozambique, nongovernmental organization and local community partners, as needed.

The specialist is expected to provide:

- an complete assessment of facilities needed and hardware/software required for an effective GIS program
- specific recommendations for GIS program development

The specialist may also evaluate or provide:

- Potential of expanding Gorongosa National Park's GIS software/installations to remote locations.
- What is needed to train forestry technicians in basic GIS functions (collecting field data, transferring data into a computer, visualize data in GIS maps, store data, maintain data)
- Development of field forms and map templates

## **Schedule**

The assignments are expected to occur in August/September 2011 for one week with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, and our Mozambican partners.

## **Pre-and Post-Trip Duties**

All travel and in-country logistics are handled by DOI-ITAP. Background materials are provided to the selected individuals prior to the assignment. The selected individual will work with DOI-ITAP staff on preparation and follow-up via phone and email. Within 2 weeks of the completion of the trip, the

specialist will provide DOI-ITAP with a report focusing on trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future assistance.

## Costs

DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals and incidentals, immunizations, etc.). It is expected that the employing agency of the selected specialist will continue to cover salary during the duration of this assignment.

## Requirements for Applicants

Persons wishing to be considered for these assignments:

- Preference given to current or retired DOI employees and other USG employees.
- 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.
- **SELECTIVE FACTOR:** Must have an extensive professional background in geospatial information systems (GIS) and global position system (GPS) technology. This includes:
  - Experience developing functional GIS for institutions or remote locations
  - Experience in training end-users in GIS and GPS functionality
  - Be able to conduct a GIS needs assessment.
  - Have a broad range of experience across the spectrum of geospatial technologies, including GIS, remote sensing, and GPS.

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.

Please submit applications (electronic is preferred) to:

Marc Weitzel, Senior Advisor  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW MS-3530

Washington, DC 20240  
Tel: (805) 671-9746  
Fax: (202) 501-6381  
E-mail: [marc\\_weitzel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov)

Please contact Levi White ([levi\\_white@ios.doi.gov](mailto:levi_white@ios.doi.gov)) or Marc Weitzel with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB June 24, 2011. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

All NPS applicants must copy applications to Rudy D'Alessandro ([rudy\\_dalessandro@nps.gov](mailto:rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov)) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

## **Application Process**

Applications will be taken on a rolling basis. 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.