

Tourist Trail Development Specialists Needed for Short-Term Assignment in Mozambique

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

1. Tourist trail planning, construction, development and maintenance
2. Design and placement of tourist facilities, including waste facilities

The selected specialists will serve on two-person team that will advise on planning and development of tourist trails at Mount Gorongosa, Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique. Selected specialists are 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) 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 team will be fielded in Mozambique for approximately 2-3 weeks, 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, specialists will work closely with GRP representatives and other appropriate Government of Mozambique, nongovernmental organization and local community partners.

This assignment will involve helping to plan and develop tourist trails that would reach into the three main communities around Mount Gorongosa. The technical assistance includes an assessment of existing (undeveloped) footpaths and trail ideas/concepts, trail route design, trail construction specification, location of amenities/interest points, building specification, and waste management guidance. This will entail:

- Trail routes developed to the concept stage
- Detailed maps with GPS of proposed trail to be developed
- Specific recommendations for trails work
- Plans and guidelines for trails construction
- Assessment of facilities needed and tools required for trails construction

SCHEDULE: The assignments are expected to occur in June/July 2011 for two to three weeks 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 individuals will work with DOI-ITAP staff on preparation and follow-up via phone and email. Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide DOI-ITAP with a report focusing on trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future assistance. Within 5 weeks, the team will deliver draft trail plans and guidelines to in-country partners for development and construction.

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.

Requirements for Tourist Trails Design and Development Specialists

- Experience in trail design and construction
- Experience with geospatial information systems (GIS) and global position system (GPS) technology
- Experience in enhancing the ability of sites to attract and retain visitors.
- Expertise in ecotourism development and planning for sustainable eco-tourism in and around protected areas in a manner compatible with local cultures.

Requirements for Facilities Design and Development Expert

- Must have the ability to produce schematic/conceptual diagrams for the development of infrastructure.
- Must have an extensive professional background in planning, assessing, and developing infrastructure, such as roads, camping and sites, latrines.
- Experience with geospatial information systems (GIS) and global position system (GPS) technology
- Experience as a landscape architect is highly 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.
3. Fill out the following webform:

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

Please submit applications (electronic is preferred) to:

Levi White, Project Manager
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U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS-3530

Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-1480
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: levi_white@ios.doi.gov

Please contact Levi White or Marc Weitzel (marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov) with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB April 15, 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 months. 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.