



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Long Term Assignment/Detailee Protected Area Management Mentoring Muscat, Oman 2014/15

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking applications to gauge interest in a long-term assignment requiring one or two protected area managers to serve as a mentor to protected areas managers for approximately 6-9 months of technical assistance in the Sultanate of Oman.

BACKGROUND: 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. ITAP has managed short- and long-term multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

The ITAP program in Oman is supported by the U.S. Department of State, under the auspices of the U.S. – Oman Free Trade Agreement and associated agreement on environmental cooperation. Oman has a long history of promoting the conservation of its unique natural resources. Several protected areas have already been established in Oman, and the Sultan recently issued a royal decree that would require the creation of several more within the coming years. Oman is also rapidly developing, including in the tourism sector, putting additional pressure on the protected areas and the natural resources they are intended to safeguard. Most of the country's protected areas were established to protect sensitive species or land, and visitor engagement is now becoming a priority. To date, ITAP has provided technical advice and assistance to key Omani partners on the development of strong planning mechanisms to support enhanced management of Oman's protected areas.

ITAP's key partners in Oman include:

- Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA)
- Environment Society of Oman (ESO)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Turtle Conservation Act Program (MTCA)

ASSIGNMENT: This assignment is in the preliminary planning stages, and no specific plans have been agreed upon between DOI-ITAP and its Omani partners. If there is sufficient interest generated by this announcement and Omani counterparts, selection and planning will proceed.

ITAP is seeking experts on the administration of protected areas for both conservation and visitor engagement to serve as a mentor to staff at the headquarters of Oman's Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA). This assignment will include working at the Muscat headquarters advising counterparts on issues of management planning, outreach, visitor services, and other issues critical to the sound management of Oman's protected areas. The mentor will also suggest training courses to develop staff skills and facilitate and/or identify others to provide training to employees based on their observations and collaboration with

MECA staff. The assignment will also include work with the Office for the Conservation of the Environment of the Royal Diwan (an executive advisory board) and other partners in Oman.

The project aim is to have a mentor in place for at least six months and as many as nine; this mentorship could be divided between candidates depending on interest and availability. The timing and terms of the assignment are highly variable, and can be discussed with interested candidates as ITAP plans its work with its Omani partners and the State Department. The mentor(s) will likely work at MECA offices, and live in an apartment in Muscat provided by ITAP. Mentors will be provided a car as needed (driving in Oman is very similar to driving in the U.S.). ITAP will also furnish security training and provisions in accordance with U.S. State Department recommendations.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to cover 6-9 month period in 2014/15. The technical assistance will be provided primarily in Muscat, Oman, but will include trips to protected areas around the country.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by ITAP and/or our in-country counterpart. Background material and briefings will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The assignment may include a preliminary trip to Oman to meet with counterparts and finalize logistics. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with ITAP project managers and U.S. Embassy staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Throughout the trip the individual will provide ITAP managers with regular updates and reports as requested including trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future actions. NPS travelers will also submit this report to their Office of International Affairs.

COSTS: ITAP will cover all travel and work-related costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, workspace, telecommunications, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). However, salary for current employees must be paid by their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment/detailee. A modest stipend MAY be available for retiree candidates but is not guaranteed. Please indicate in your application if a stipend is required to facilitate participation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have demonstrated experience in managing protected areas and PA networks;
- Have extensive experience in developing employee competencies;
- Be knowledgeable about standards of performance for management of wildlife reserves and parks;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Arabic language proficiency is welcome but not a requirement;
- Previous international experience is desirable, particularly experience with protected areas.

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 (see below).

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, 202-208-5160) with the subject: "PA Mentor, Oman".
 - Cover letter and resume should be send as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_JOB TITLE"
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted no later than **April 25th, 2014**.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Colleen Castle.

All applicants must secure approval from their supervisors to apply for an ITAP assignment. Supervisors will then adhere to their Bureau requirements for any further approvals required by the Bureau. For Bureau requirements, applicants should contact their appropriate Bureau International Affairs Point of Contact. A complete list of those POCs follows. All NPS, BOR and BLM applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs when they submit their applications to ITAP.

Bureau	Contact	Email	Telephone	Fax
BIA	Eric Wilson, International Affairs Coordinator	Eric.wikson@bia.gov	202-501-5944	202-208-4564
BLM	Olivia Sierra, International Affairs Specialist	Olivia_sierra@blm.gov	202-513-0710	202-912-7181
BOR	Richard H. Ives, Director of Native American and International Affairs	rives@usbr.gov	202-513-0550	202-513-0311
FWS	Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director for International Affairs	Bryan_arroyo@fws.gov	202-208-6394	202-208-5618
BSEE	Julie Fleming, Acting Chief, Office of International Program	julie.fleming@bsee.gov	703-787-1681	202-208-7242
NPS	Stephen A. Morris, Chief, Office of International Affairs	Stephen_morris@nps.gov	202-354-1803	202-371-1446
OSM	Al Whitehouse, Director of International Programs	awhitehouse@osmre.gov	202-208-2868	202-408-4812
USGS	Vic Labson, Director of International Programs	vlabson@usgs.gov	703-648-6206	703-648-4227
ONRR	Jennifer Goldblatt, Chief of Staff, Office of Natural Resources and Revenues	Jennifer.goldblatt@onrr.gov	202-513-0604	

Please note that ITAP travel does not require the use of a field office credit card and travel will not count towards 'travel caps'.

Application Process

This announcement serves as a call to gauge interest in the opportunity. The activity described is not yet in the planning stages, and so the selection process will take a number of weeks (or months). A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, email or letter. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Managers listed above.**