



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

Short Term Assignment Long Term Protected Area Manager/Trainer SAUDI ARABIA

OPPORTUNITY: On behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking four experienced protected area managers to provide approximately 21 months of technical assistance in Saudi Arabia.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis.

At the request of the Saudi Wildlife Authority (SWA), DOI-ITAP is utilizing its network of current and retired DOI employees to help identify qualified protected area specialists to assist the SWA in building capacity for management of four of KSA's protected areas. The experienced PA managers are invited to express interest to take part in the project that will work with the Saudi Wildlife Authority to plan and implement priority management interventions for the four selected protected areas within the Kingdom. Description of these PAs is attached.

In total four experts will be selected and contracted--one expert for each PA. They will be coordinated and supported by the project Team Leader who will be based in SWA headquarters and by other short-term international experts as required. A 21 month-long contract will be offered to each expert (minimum one year commitment is required). The project will cover experts' remuneration, international and local travel costs, housing, health insurance and equipment allowance.

ASSIGNMENT: SWA is seeking experts on the sound management and management planning process for protected areas, particularly those in desert, semi-arid, or marine climates. Specific tasks will include, but likely not be limited to the items described below.

- The first three months will be spend leading the management planning process in each PA jointly with the project Team Leader, international short-term experts, SWA headquarters' staff and local managers and rangers
- Work with the PA manager to advise/assist in daily duties. This includes preparing an implementation plan (annual plan) for each of the protected areas and supervising its implementation on site, ensuring protection of the wildlife and natural ecosystems of the protected area while engaging the support of local communities
- Provide training and mentorship of the site managers and rangers in carrying out all duties related to the management of the reserves, including effective anti-poaching patrols in the reserve, wildlife monitoring, and social outreach (engaging with local communities to gain their understanding and co-operation in the management of the reserves, respecting boundaries and the laws of the Kingdom)

- Participate in the design and implementation of the formal trainings program for field staff with respect to: anti-poaching, social outreach, scientific monitoring, and field station management. Participate in the design of possible study tours of PA managers and rangers in other countries
- Monitor the progress of the work, and submit quarterly reports on each of the selected protected areas, explaining the level of implementation and recommendations
- Advise the Team Leader and SWA on PA system level interventions to increase management effectiveness of PAs

SCHEDULE and WORK SETTING: Chosen specialists will be housed in small towns near the protected areas in which they will work. Each PA has a main rangers' station (type of admin building) and several other stations. Specialists will spend time in these buildings and in the field. Work will be done five days per week (weekend is Friday-Saturday) during seven-hour work days (from 7:30am-2:30pm). Current PA employees are all male; women work separately from men. Most SWA headquarters staff in speak English, but only two of the PAs managers speak English. Rangers and managers of other PAs have none or very limited English. Translation services will be provided as needed, but knowledge of Arabian would be an important asset.

This assignment is expected to cover a 21 month period beginning in 2014. A minimum of one year commitment is required. The technical assistance will be provided in one of four parks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (parks are described at the end of this announcement). Chosen candidates will be housed in small towns near each park. One month of vacation will be included in the 12 month contract with funding for one trip back to the U.S. An expert may split this time in two periods, but travel funds are available only for one trip. Individuals will be allowed to travel with their spouse; travel costs will be reimbursed.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by the chosen applicants and KSA. Background material and briefings will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure.

COSTS: KSA will cover the costs of housing, international and local travel costs, housing, health insurance, equipment and the contractors' salaries (\$100K per person for the 21 month contract, paid twice monthly). International travel logistics will be handled by the consulting firm serving SWA.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will possess:

- Minimum of ten years of senior management experience as wardens or managers in formal protected areas (preferably in desert/semi-desert and marine PAs)
- Demonstrable experience of working in remote areas and in cross-cultural and/or bilingual settings (knowledge of Arabian language will be considered as an asset, but not required)
- Have 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 training, mentorship and management of protected area staff including anti-poaching units
- Experience in working positively and effectively with local communities

- Experience in working with other formal and informal stakeholders
- Arabic proficiency is preferred but not required. Translation services will be provided as needed however many Rangers and managers have very limited English proficiency.

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

Disclaimer: DOI-ITAP is not acting in a coordination or management capacity for this assignment. Any applications received will be passed on to points of contact at SWA, after which DOI-ITAP involvement may or may not continue.

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 (202-208-5160), colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov or Marc Weitzel (805-671-9746), marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov
 - Cover letter and resume should be send as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_Saudi PA Management"
- If you are a current employee, indicate your supervisor's approval.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **October 14, 2013**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Colleen Castle or Marc Weitzel. 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 Manager(s) listed above.**

All NPS applicants should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs. All NPS applicants must have the approval to apply from their Associate Director or Regional Director. *ADs/RDs fully encourage qualified NPS staff to apply; securing the approval of the ADs/RDs before applying is intended to ensure that supervisory chains are aware of the potential for ITAP engagement.*

All BLM applicants should copy their applications to Olivia Sierra (osierra@blm.gov) in the BLM Office of International Affairs. BLM applicants **must** have the approval of their immediate supervisor to apply.

Employees of the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement** are **required** to have **supervisory approval** prior to submitting an application.

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