

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 participate in a multi-week assignment to take place in Morocco starting in October 2011. 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.
- Developing training plans for protected areas staff

This assignment will involve close collaboration with the Moroccan High Commission for Water, Forest and the Fight Against Desertification (HCEFLCD), which has responsibility for the country's protected areas.

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 purpose of this technical assistance assignment is to develop a training and technical assistance curriculum in support of the new strategy for sustainable tourism in national parks (Strategy). The experts will spend 6-8 weeks in Morocco meeting with important stakeholders, conducting assessments and gathering necessary information in order to develop two distinct curricula: one which defines training needs for Morocco's park staff and a second that outlines the recommend technical assistance.

The curricula will include specific training and TA activities that the High Commission and DOI will then implement together. The Strategy is in development and will be complete or near completion by October 2011. While in country, DOI experts will spend time in Rabat meeting with High Commission and GIZ officials to better understand the Strategy, and the overall vision and needs of the High Commission; and they will spend significant time visiting parks and meeting with park staff and directors in order to gain a full understanding of the parks' missions, management plans, current operations and tourism activities.

It is expected that DOI will also follow through in conducting some of the proposed trainings and technical assistance activities recommended.

1) Training

The High Commission feels it is necessary to provide training to park directors and staff in order to be able to implement the Strategy. Such training might include managing the frequency and number of tourists, how to conduct evaluations, etc. The DOI experts will become intimately familiar with the goals and objectives of the strategy and they will identify training that should be conducted for park staff in order to implement it.

2) Technical Assistance

The technical assistance is needed in order to help the High Commission and its parks with better planning for and management of tourism in protected areas. The High Commission proposes that DOI's TA focus on developing tourism management plans (operational plans) as a part of the overall management plan. Targeted technical assistance might include, for example, developing infrastructure in parks. However, this will be determined by the DOI experts during the visit to Morocco.

SCHEDULE: The various technical assistance assignments will take place starting October 2011.

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 development and 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. **Please have all application materials submitted by August 17, 2011.** A form SF-171 is acceptable. Please submit applications (electronically is preferred) with the subject line **Sustainable Tourism / Protected Areas Management, Morocco** to both:

Tricia Bickley
Email: patricia_bickley@ios.doi.gov

Colleen Castle
Email: colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov
Phone: 202-208-5160

Please contact Tricia Bickley or Colleen Castle at the above addresses 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) 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. Every effort will be made to select applicants who have not yet had the opportunity to participate on an ITAP assignment.