

Signage Specialists Needed for Short-Term Assignment in Tanzania

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) seeks ten individuals with expertise in signage design, construction, and installation for a short-term overseas detail in Tanzania.

The selected specialists will serve on one of five, two person teams that will advise and train members of local communities on signage design, construction, and installation within five Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Tanzania. The focus will be on directional, interpretive, and regulatory signage, using local construction materials. Once training is complete, specialists will oversee the construction and installation of signage within the WMAs. The selected WMAs are Burunge WMA, Enduimet WMA, Ikona WMA, Ipole WMA, and Pawaga-Idodi (MBOMIPA) WMA. These are not public lands managed by the National Government of Tanzania. Rather, they are a relatively new category of protected area under community authority and responsibility.

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.

DOI-ITAP has provided technical in Tanzania since 1997, touching on a variety of themes that include law enforcement training for rangers, design and construction of roads within protected areas, management of marine protected areas, tourism planning, and environmental interpretation activities.

DOI-ITAP's current effort is part the USAID Financial Crisis Initiative. The main objective of the Financial Crisis Initiative is to generate employment opportunities in rural areas and to enable local households to receive incomes that will assist them in coping with the pressures of the on-going global financial and economic crisis. Other objectives include:

- Contributing to improvement of infrastructure in the WMAs
- Enhancing the conservation of biodiversity in the WMAs
- Increasing accessibility to the WMAs and increasing the attractiveness of the WMAs to both investors and visitors

ASSIGNMENT: Teams will be fielded in Tanzania 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). While in Tanzania, specialists will work closely with appropriate Government of Tanzania, nongovernmental organization and local community partners.

This assignment will evaluate existing sign programs and train and assist WMA representatives in the design, development, and implementation of a cost effective, uniform sign system that could withstand potential animal and weather damage, yet be practical and aesthetically pleasing. This will include:

- an assessment of WMA signage goals and concerns
- Development of a simple sign plan (or refinement of an existing plan), that might discuss components such as standardized materials and sizes; recommended locations; maintenance/replacement schedules; tool needs; and evaluation of existing sign programs with regard to design, consistency, standardization, fabrication techniques, and resistance to animal and weather damage
- assessment of the availability of locally sourced materials, utilizing sustainable or recycled material when practical
- assessment of interpretive/educational/regulatory sign opportunities
- facilitation of a cooperative spirit among WMAs with regard to their respective sign systems.

Selected specialists will then conduct sign-related training (classroom and field) as appropriate; conduct safety training relating to sign construction, fabrication and tool use; and assist WMA representatives in creating and installing “animal resistant” (and to the extent possible, weather resistant) signs for each WMA, utilizing available materials and technology that will serve as an example for the construction of additional signage.

SCHEDULE: The assignments are expected to occur in Spring 2010 for two to three weeks with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, and our Tanzanian 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.

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.
- **SELECTIVE FACTOR:** Must have an extensive professional background in designing, constructing installing, and maintaining directional/orientation, regulatory, and interpretive signage, using a variety of construction materials. Ideally this experience will have been gained working in protected areas.
- Experience in developing directional/interpretive/regulatory messages for signs preferred
- Must have the ability to provide safe, practical, hands-on training and instruction, often in primitive and challenging conditions, and with limited resources
- Experience training non-professional in design and construction is desirable
- Understanding of labor-intensive, low-tech construction methods is desirable
- 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.

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
 Office of International Affairs
 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_a_white@ios.doi.gov

Please contact Barbara Pitkin, DOI-ITAP Director (Barbara_Pitkin@ios.doi.gov; 202/208-5221) or Marc Weitzel (marc_weitzel@fws.gov; 805/644-5185) with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB December 31, 2010. 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.