



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

DOI-ITAP Recruitment Announcement - Short Term Assignment

Philippines — Counter Wildlife Trafficking

PHILIPPINES

2023-2024

Opportunity

The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is recruiting a seasoned leader with broad experience with counter wildlife trafficking (GS14-SES or equivalent leadership positions) to be part of a multidisciplinary team of technical experts to contribute their knowledge and expertise to complete an assessment and project planning effort for a three-year project in the Philippines. An assessment trip to the Philippines will provide critical knowledge to inform the assessment and subsequent report and will take place in early winter for approximately two weeks. This assignment is scheduled to conclude March 31, 2024. ITAP is looking for subject matter experts with the following experiences:

- Strategic use of multiple methods of crime reduction/apprehension: site and investigation-based
- Innovative approaches to criminal justice reform
- Performing various techniques for crime suppression, including port inspections
- Implementing investigative surveillance methods
- Conducting collaborative, multi-jurisdictional investigations
- Creating elements of demand-reduction programs to decrease criminal acts
- Extensive knowledge of issues pertaining to illegal wildlife trafficking and counter wildlife trafficking efforts
- Planning and leading trainings, conferences, or workshops
- Developing, managing, or supervising of geospatial databases

Applicants may also be considered for project implementation phase after the initial project assessment.

BACKGROUND

DOI-ITAP provides technical assistance to foreign countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis (i.e., without appropriated funds). The program is currently operating across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U. S. Department of State. DOI-ITAP has managed multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

This project will focus on protecting the Philippines' unique biodiversity by countering wildlife trafficking, protecting natural areas, and integrating geospatial databases to amplify holistic conservation management efforts.

As one of eighteen of the world's mega-diverse countries, the Philippines is home to over 70% of the world's plant and animal species. With 228 Key Biodiversity Areas across ecosystems including coral reefs, mangroves, and a variety of forest types, the archipelago is home to a plethora of endemic species (nearly 68% of total species recorded), many which are threatened or endangered. The Philippines is at great risk for biodiversity loss, both at a taxa and ecosystem level. With an increasing population and development to match, large-scale deforestation, habitat fragmentation, forestland conversion, logging, and mining contribute to terrestrial threats, while warming sea water, plastic pollution, and sea level rise jeopardize marine ecosystems.

Illegal wildlife trade exponentially exacerbates these impacts, and the Philippines is a nexus of consumption, source, and transit for the multi-billion dollar per year market, including marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. Species like the Philippines forest Turtle (*Siebenrockiella leytenensis*), the Palawan pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), and the Philippine cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) are illegally captured, sold, and transported for meat, pets, or traditional medicine, and necessitate the ability to detect, and distinguish between dozens of species of mammals, birds, herpetofauna, and respective products, and then work through complicated steps to prosecute transnational operators/operations. This renders an essential need for skilled and strategic inspection systems, coupled with immense knowledge to effectively and collaboratively counter wildlife trafficking. This project will work to cooperatively integrate counter wildlife trafficking with protected area management, and implement geospatial databases, to amplify broad-scale conservation.

This project will be supported by funding through USAID's PAPA with DOI-ITAP, and the activities proposed will mirror priorities set by the newly appointed Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and will focus on the protection of the Philippines' biodiversity. Correspondingly, the project will support partner organizations in establishing essential efforts to counter wildlife trafficking, including building capacity around enforcement, reducing consumer demand, and linking these elements with protected area management, and incorporating information into geospatial databases. This project will provide robust opportunities to exchange technical expertise in counter wildlife trafficking to meet the partner country's goals and deliverables.

All project outcomes will seek to achieve initiatives that can be sustained beyond the life of the activity while providing co-benefits to biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitats, sustainable livelihoods, and food security to incentivize more financially sound, equitable, impactful, and long-lasting mitigation investments. Projects will seek to increase local co-stewardship, meaningful participation, and active leadership from Indigenous communities, women, youth, and other marginalized, divested, or underrepresented groups.

ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this initial phase of the project is to perform an overall assessment, based on three main focuses: counter wildlife trafficking, protected areas management, and geospatial/database management systems. Implementation of the project will be based on a detailed three-year workplan which will stem from the initial assessment conducted. This assignment is to help launch the assessment phase of the project. Responsibilities will include:

- Virtual and in person consultations with key partners in the region, including the U.S. Agency for International Development's Philippines Office, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCS), University of the Philippines (UP), World Wildlife Foundation Philippines (WWF), and the ASEAN Centre

for Biodiversity (ACB), among others.

- Periodic coordination meetings with the ITAP project team.
- Participate in and contribute to an assessment to determine the project's scope, scale, approach, technical methods, and partner coordination.
- Two-week assessment trip to the Philippines in February.
- Develop a comprehensive, multi-faceted workplan upon return from trip, using ITAP and partner resources, plus information gathered during travel.

SCHEDULE

This assessment phase is expected to take place over the fall of 2023 and early winter of 2024. Team members can expect to dedicate around 5-10 hours monthly, depending on the phase of the assessment. Applicants will assist remotely prior to, and after the completion of, a short-term assessment trip to the Philippines. Selected applicants may be requested to continue serving as a technical expert as the project continues, depending on applicant availability and project needs.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES

Travel to the Philippines will be required for this assessment. All travel and in-country logistics will be funded and arranged by DOI-ITAP.

The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers on the preparation of a project assessment and work plan and participate in virtual meetings to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within eight weeks following travel, the team will provide DOI-ITAP managers a thorough workplan, including evaluations made, and recommendations for future actions. NPS and USGS travelers will also be required to submit an additional, brief trip report to their respective Offices of International Affairs/Programs.

COSTS

DOI-ITAP will cover all costs associated with this assignment (e.g., round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, travel insurance, immunizations, official passport and visa fees, per diem, etc.). DOI team member salaries will be paid by their respective employing DOI agency for the duration of the assignment.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Demonstrate advanced technical expertise in the three stages of wildlife trafficking;
- Demonstrate experience in project development with diverse stakeholder and rightsholder input;
- Demonstrate experience collaborating with a multi-disciplinary team;
- Demonstrate experience or knowledge of international conservation, preferably in the Southeast Asia region;
- Demonstrated experience in combating wildlife trafficking efforts in or around protected areas;
- Demonstrated experience in combating wildlife trafficking efforts in urban areas;
- Open to innovative approaches of crime reduction and criminal justice reform;
- Able to communicate the ecological and biological implications of illegal wildlife trafficking;

- Able to communicate the economics of illegal wildlife trafficking;
- Possess strong oral and written communications skills;
- Preference given to current or retired employees of DOI. Employees and retirees of other agencies are also encouraged to apply;

If you are selected for this assignment, you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary (see below).

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a cover letter and resume/CV (as a single pdf document titled: "LastName_FirstName_Philippines-CWT/PAM") summarizing relevant experience, together with a note indicating supervisor approval (if applicable), to Nicholas_Bruscato@ios.doi.gov. Please use the subject line "Full Name_Philippines-CWT/PAM".

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than October 20th Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

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. All NPS, BOR, and BLM applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs when they submit their applications to ITAP. A complete list of those POCs follows. In addition, NPS and FWS-OLE require the following:

- o All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudylealessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.
- o If you are employed with FWS/OLE, please do not respond to this recruitment. FWS/OLE recruitment for ITAP assignments are being handled through FWS/OLE HQ.

Bureau	Contact	Email	Telephone
BIA	Joaquin Gallegos	joaquin_gallegos@ios.doi.gov	202-208-7163
BLM	David Howell	dohowell@blm.gov	503-884-6626
BOR	Omero Martinez	omartinez@usbr.gov	202-513-0557
BOR	Jeff Morris	jmorris@usbr.gov	303-445-3373
FWS	Lillian Moore	lillian_moore@fws.gov	703-358-2587
BSEE	Julie Fleming	julie.fleming@bsee.gov	202-208-3827
NPS	Rudy D'Alessandro	rudylealessandro@nps.gov	202-354-1805
BOEM	Emily Lindow	emily.lindow@boem.gov	202-513-0825
OSMRE	Sterling Rideout	srideout@osmre.gov	202-208-2868
USGS	Kevin Kunkel	kkunkel@usgs.gov	703-648-6206
ONRR	Chris Mentasti	chris.mentasti@onrr.gov	202-513-0614
OS	Tabitha Anderson	tabitha_anderson@ios.doi.gov	202-208-3624
OWF	Amy Krause	amy_krause@ios.doi.gov	202-570-2233
DOI Passports and Visas	Tiffany Cephas	passports@ios.doi.gov	202-208-5292
DOI Passports and Visas	Crystal Franklin	passports@ios.doi.gov	202-208-5292

Please note that ITAP travel does not require use of bureau charge cards and will not count towards bureau 'travel caps'.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A short list of candidates will be interviewed via MS Teams. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by email. **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 listed above.**