



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY
22 May 2008
BIODIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURE

Programme Officer, LifeWeb

Type of Contract:	Fixed Term
Post Level:	L-4
Duty Station:	Montreal
Deadline:	15 February 2009
Duration:	1 year (Renewable)

Background and Terms of Reference

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations system's designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action.

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for 'sustainable development'. One of the key agreements adopted at Rio was the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

Responsibilities

This post, for a three-year period with an initial appointment of one year (renewable based on performance), is located at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) at Montreal, to serve as the coordinator of the LifeWeb Initiative activities within the Secretariat. The LifeWeb Initiative was proposed during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with the aim of improving global financing. The LifeWeb Initiative is a voluntary, open and flexible initiative, which acts as a clearing-house to link donors and recipients in the designation and improvement of protected areas globally. The main objective of the Life Web Initiative is to support the creation of new protected areas and improve the management of existing protected areas, to enhance implementation of the CBD PoWPA. Specific objectives include : Facilitate progress in the expansion of protected area coverage and its effectiveness in particular its contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as to livelihood security of local communities; Parties and local and indigenous communities are enabled to publish proposals for the establishment and improved management of protected areas along with the respective needs for financing and international support at a central, easily accessible and up-to-date information platform; Donors (donor countries, NGOs, private sector, foundations) are provided with a comprehensive overview of concrete funding



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needs and are enabled to better focus and coordinate their support; The CBD Secretariat is enabled to act as a broker and actively bring together multiple partners; Numerous partnerships for the financing of new protected areas are originated and financing of protected area systems is significantly increased; Partners in the initiative are provided with tools and encouraged to adopt systems of climate change impact assessments and carbon accounting in their national systems of protected areas; Global awareness of the value of protected areas for climate change mitigation and adaptation has significantly grown.

The LifeWeb initiative will give the CBD programme of work on protected areas an additional impetus in the run-up towards 2010 by stimulating the identification and designation of new protected areas necessary for the completion of comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas.

Under the guidance and supervision of the Principal Officer, Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters and the Executive Secretary, the incumbent will perform the following duties:

1. Facilitate implementation of the initiative in collaboration with Parties, relevant organizations, indigenous and local communities, business and private sector;
2. Liaise with Parties to submit proposals;
3. Approach donors (all levels) to participate in the initiative and support proposals and develop a business plan for augmenting funding for the initiative;
4. Facilitate matches/bring partners together and organize meetings of partners;
5. Give guidance to partners and facilitate access to tools and methodologies to integrate climate change considerations within protected area management;
6. Encourage partners to adopt systems of climate change impact assessment and carbon accounting in their national systems of protected areas;
7. Develop awareness of the value of protected areas for climate change mitigation and adaptation; and;
8. Reporting on the implementation of the initiative; develop activities for raising awareness of the initiative

Competencies

1. Professionalism and Team work: Experience and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds; Proven record in working collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; Strong interpersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to lead and gain the assistance and cooperation of others in a team endeavor; Ability to build trust through operating with transparency and creating an open and positive environment; Shows pride in achievements and demonstrates professional competence, is conscientious in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results. Good understanding of, and interest in protected areas issues- establishment and management; participation and governance; financing and business approach. Good understanding of CBD programme of work on protected areas, marine protected areas component of the marine and coastal programme of work and other relevant CBD programmes of work.

2 Planning and organization: Proven excellent organizational and planning skills; Ability to identify priority activities and assignments and make necessary adjustments as required; Foresee risks and allow for contingencies when planning; and ensure timely delivery of results.

3. Leadership: Managerial and leadership skills; Ability to collaborate with others to achieve results; Experience in building and managing teams and creating an enabling environment; Ability to establish and maintain relationships with a broad range of people to understand needs and gain support.

4. Judgement/decision making: Proven ability to provide strategic direction, to plan and establish priorities, and to ensure an effective work structure to maximize productivity and achieve goals.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education

Advanced university degree in environmental, social or political sciences, business administration, public administration, environmental management, or a first university degree with a relevant combination of academic and professional qualifications.

Work Experience

At least seven years of professional and progressively responsible experience, including experience at the international level in the field of sustainable development or environment related programmes, public administration and environmental conventions. Experience in organization of meetings a requirement.

Languages

Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English is required. Working knowledge of another UN language(s) an asset..

Other Skills

Prior experience with the United Nations or in a United Nations common system organization as well as familiarity with the United Nations activities and organizational structure an advantage. Ability to draft documents and express views in a clear and concise manner.

Please send all applications to: secretariat@cbd.int
