



Science Division



United Nations
Environment Programme

UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title: Junior Professional Officer

Unit: Science Division, Capacity Development and Innovation Branch, Enabling Innovation Unit

Location: Nairobi

Duration: Initially one year with the possibility to extend up to a maximum total of 3 years

Opening Date: 25 March 2019

Closing Date: 24 April 2019

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

A United Nations science-policy-business forum on the environment entitled “Science for Green Solutions” was held on 2 and 3 December 2017 at the margins of the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3). One of the main messages from all the various participants including decision-makers that emerged from the forum was the need to accelerate the pace for identifying and promoting opportunities for growing green technology markets, driven by advance in science and technology, empowering policies and innovative financing.

Indeed, today’s technology and science driven solution – known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution- offers an unprecedented opportunity to embrace cleaner, greener and more efficient solutions to sustainable development. Participants at the forum further noted that these solutions, however, are scalable only if supported by timely policy interventions, regulatory and governance frameworks and sustainable financial systems.

In parallel, Member States of UN Environment have increasingly been demanding a greater emphasis on innovation in UN Environment. In close collaboration with the Big Science and Big Data Branch of the Science Division and the various Divisions within the United Nations Environment (UN Environment) including the Economy Division, the Ecosystems Division and the Law Division among others, and in partnership with the private sector and research institutions, the Capacity Development and Innovation Branch in the Science Division aims to respond to this call and explore opportunities to catalyze the uptake of science-based solutions to environmental challenges. The ability of the Science Division to do



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so, however, will necessitate added expertise in this area. A qualified Junior Professional Officer will greatly enhance the Division's capacity to undertake the various activities linked to identifying, assessing, introducing and scaling-up technological and other science-based solutions to environmental challenges.

These activities include:

- developing partnerships across the globe for scanning the horizon for technological and other science-based solutions to environmental challenges,
- assessing the environmental, social and market promise of the potential solutions,
- using the science-policy nexus to bring together the appropriate constellation of stakeholders from the science, government, business, finance and civil society communities to catalyse action to move those solutions from the unconventional status into the mainstream of the market place,
- providing scientific and technical support to communities, municipalities and government on identifying optimal green innovative solutions and incorporating these into decision-making and budgetary allocation processes.

This work will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and Goal 6, which seeks availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

As the Junior Professional will be dealing with various countries, in addition to English, working knowledge of other United Nations Languages is desirable.

The desired competencies for the afore-mentioned tasks include: Ability to identify, analyze and participate in the resolution of issues/problems; Conceptual analytical and evaluative skills to conduct independent research and analysis, particularly of innovative technologies; Familiarity with and experience in the use of various research sources, including electronic sources on the internet, intranet and other databases.

Additional desirable competencies include Technical/scientific and practical understanding of industrial economics and/or corporate and private sector financing, market-based and innovative solutions for improved human well-being and sustainable development. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations;

Upon completion of the assignment the Junior Professional Officer would have acquired substantive knowledge with regard to the application of innovative and sustainable finance, economics and market-



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based instruments and approaches to propose and introduce green innovative technology solutions for sustainable development and have the ability to inform decision-makers on the various opportunities for cleaner, greener and more efficient solutions.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

As per the background provided in the beginning of the document, the UN Environment has been championing for the transition to greener and cleaner economies. As the global United Nations environmental institutions, the organization is expected to provide normative guidance to policy and decision-makers on issues related to the environment, natural capital and the importance of key ecosystems and related ecosystem services backed by sound and relevant scientific evidence. As such, there has been increasing demand from government clients to provide technical and capacity-building support in the areas of greener technology solutions in close partnership with the private sector. As this stage, the rate of demand for technical assistance far outpaces the ability of the organization to supply the types of knowledge and expertise required. In this regard, the addition of a Junior Professional Officer will be of great assistance towards matching the increasing demands in this area.

Supervision

The junior professional will be under the direct supervision of the Senior Programme officer working in the Enabling Innovation Unit located in the Capacity Development and Innovative Branch and responsible for the scaling up of innovative solutions. The Junior Professional's his or her workplan will be directly linked to the supervisor's workplan including the supervisor's deliverables, the quality of the deliverables and the success criterion. In this way, the Junior Professional will fully participate in the day to day activities of the various economic projects with an added incentive for the project leader to fully involve and adequately supervise the Junior Professional Officer. The performance appraisal will be carried out through the E-Performance system.

In addition, the Junior Professional will be mentored by another professional experienced in the area of financial economics as well as private sector engagement in order to acquire as wide a view and perspective as possible.

Content and methodology of the supervision

The Junior Professional will be widely appraised of the extent and reach of the Unit, understand to which sub-programme the work directly and indirectly contributes to; have a clear sense of the importance and the place of the programme, projects and related activities *vis a vis* UN Environment's Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

There will be at least one meeting each week between the Junior Professional and the supervisor to discuss planning, activities as well as to take stock of progress and also potential challenge. However, the Junior Professional will be expected and encouraged to request additional meetings as the exigencies of the work requires.



There will be a once-a month meeting to discuss overall progress, assessing job satisfaction and on-the job learning as well as progress in the mentorship programme. During the mid-term review between the project leader and his supervisor, the Junior Professional will be requested to also provide inputs, comments and observations on the work, quality of deliverables and progress.

Content and methodology of the supervision

The supervisor will provide high-quality supervision, guidance and mentoring to the JPO including the following elements:

- The supervisor will brief the JPO on arrival, as well as carry out introductions to the colleagues in Science Division, Regional Offices and Divisions that are involved in the programme;
- Relevant internal induction documents will be provided to enable the JPO to explore and learn elements of UN Environment's work on a regular basis;
- Depending on the task, the JPO will be paired with a team member who will provide guidance and advise
- The JPO will be invited to regular coordination meetings taking place biweekly in the Office of the Deputy Director
- Work plans for the JPO will be discussed in the context of the Objectives and Expectations of the Office's priority areas. The style of supervision will be inclusive and involve consultations, and regular feedback on the progress of work assigned both individually and with the relevant Programme Teams. The JPO and Supervisors will use Inspira, the UN Secretariat platform for online e-Performance, to structure the timing and methodology of feedback and tracking of performance;
- Feedback on the execution of activities will be provided in relation to the delivery of agreed outputs in the work plan.

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

The JPO will contribute to one or more of the following activities:

- Perform horizon scanning for technological and other science-based solutions to environmental challenges and assess those solutions for environmental, social and market promise,
- Liaise within UN Environment and with external partners to optimally utilize the science-policy nexus to bring together the constellation of actors from the science, policy, business, finance and civil society communities to catalyse action to move those solutions from the unconventional status into the mainstream of the market place;
- Prepare concept notes, financial analysis and economic modelling for private sector uptake;
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Output expectations



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- Development and maintenance of partnerships and opportunities for dissemination of knowledge on green technology solutions;
- Strengthening of existing Platform on land-based sources of marine pollution to accommodate a major initiative to scale-up the use of innovative technologies on wastewater management;
- Establishing linkages with social impact funding mechanisms for financing green technology and innovative solutions;

Travel

Missions and costs of travel envisaged

The JPO will undertake an estimated 1-2 missions per year of assignment. These include:

Travel costs will be covered by project funds.

Training and Learning Elements

Training

The JPO will have a special budget of US\$ 4,000 annually for special courses and travels related to career development (DTTA) and will be offered the opportunity to undertake the following training courses:

- Results-based management training and career development planning: the JPO will be offered opportunities to participate in UNEP's results-based management training and undertake relevant training programmes organized by the UN system
- UNEP's online training programmes: the JPO will be provided the opportunity to undertake a variety of programmes provided by UNEP including Gender Mainstreaming, Social Safeguards, Environment and Resource Efficiency.
- Coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training: the supervisors of the JPO are committed to providing daily on the job training for the JPO's effective operation in the UN system.
- Specialized training will be agreed in consultation with the supervisor.

Learning elements:

After one year, the JPO

- Will have a better and wider knowledge of the UN system,
- Will have made contacts in and outside the UN system
- Will understand a multicultural work-environment
- Have familiarity with rules and regulations;
- Will start acquiring knowledge about the nexus between scientific assessment and green technology solutions for informed decision-making;

After two years, the JPO



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- Will have learnt how to write assessment reports, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate project documents, and monitor progress in solving problems and formulation of remedial action proposals;
- Develop and maintain effective partnerships with governments, civil society entities and the private sector;

After three years, the JPO

- Provide scientific and technical advice to decision-makers in terms of introducing green technological impact solutions in the planning and priority setting and budgetary allocation processes.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications:

Master's Degree or equivalent in the area of financial economics, corporate and private sector finance or related field, or equivalent experience.

A first-level university degree (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) in combination with qualifying experience (A minimum of 3 years of relevant working experience) may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree. (Preferred qualifications - financial economics, corporate and private sector finance, or related field; or equivalent experience.

Part of the candidates' academic training (BSc or MSc) must have taken place in a developing country that appears on the following list of eligible countries of the Dutch JPO Programme.

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/pdf/List%20of%20eligible%20developing%20countries%20-%202015.pdf>

Skills: Proficiency in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, social media, Outlook, Internet browsers. Drafting/writing skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations within multicultural working environment

Working experience: At least a minimum of 2 years' and maximum 4 years experience in sustainable development and/or implementation of environmental related programmes, projects and activities is required. Experience in the private sector, especially in finance and dealing with equity and private funds is highly desirable.

Language(s) proficiency required: Fluency in English is essential. Knowledge of French is desirable. Working knowledge of other UN languages is an asset.

Competencies

Teamwork: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions



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may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

Professionalism: demonstrated expertise in area of specialty and ability to apply good judgment; high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures in a politically sensitive environment, while exercising discretion, impartiality and neutrality; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented.

Planning & Organizing: Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

Living conditions at duty station

Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa are applicable to the Nairobi Duty station

How to apply

To apply for this job, you have to submit an application to Loise Kiru on: loise.kiru@un.org

This post is opened in the context of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) scheme sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands and is addressed exclusively to NATIONALS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT APPEAR ON THE LIST OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE DUTCH JPO PROGRAMME:

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/pdf/List%20of%20eligible%20developing%20countries%20-%202015.pdf>

Nationals of Kenya are not eligible

For additional criteria see the website of Nedworc Foundation:

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/Index.htm?hoofdpath=/NL/JPO/General%20Information.htm&hoofdhash>

Please read the criteria and FAQ section carefully before considering applying