

UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title – Associate Expert: Sustainable Energy Finance

Office/division/MEA – Industry and Economy Division, Energy and Climate Branch

Unit – Finance Unit

Location – Paris, France

Duration – Two years

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), within the system of the United Nations, is the body responsible for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. UNEP's mandate is to assist in the coordinated development of a consensual environmental policy, while monitoring the state of the global environment and ensuring the attention of governments and the international community on emerging issues.

One of the main objectives of the UNEP Energy and Climate program is to provide timely and relevant information to governments and decision-makers, enabling access to knowledge and skill development, supporting informed decision making in the realm of sustainability and climate policies, as well as guiding technological choices and investments.

As part of the Energy and Climate Branch, UN Environment Programme's Finance Unit fosters increased engagement of the finance community in the low-carbon development and sustainable energy sectors. The Energy Finance team works with banks and financiers to kickstart investment in clean energy technology markets and assists countries to access international climate finance to fund their nationally determined contributions and sustainable development ambitions.

To date, the Finance Unit has supported 43 countries leverage over USD 4.3 billion in sustainable finance, through a range of projects. Ongoing projects and programmes of the Finance Unit include the Seed Capital Assistance Facility, the Mediterranean Investment Sustainable Energy Facility, the Clean Captive Installations for Industrial Clients and the EmPower project.

The Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF) SCAF supports funds and companies which invest in the early stage development of clean energy projects to bring them to financial close. SCAF is active in 27 countries globally, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Since 2009, the project has been supported by various institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, UN Foundation, and the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom.

The Mediterranean Investment Sustainable Energy Facility has supported the development of financial mechanisms to facilitate access to clean energy for end users. Since its inception in 2010, MISEF – previously known as the Mediterranean Investment Facility – has primarily been active in the MENA and Sub Saharan Africa region, before expanding scope in 2021 to Latin America and South and South-East Asia. The project has been supported by the Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security.

The Clean Captive Installations for Industrial Clients project aims at proving the economic and financial viability of captive renewable installations for industries. The project is active in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa.

The EmPower project aims at enabling alternative livelihoods for vulnerable communities, reduced emissions through renewable energy and sparking intergovernmental commitments to ensure gender-responsive policies and actions in the Asia-Pacific region. EmPower has been supported and funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

In addition to these flagship projects of the Finance Unit, project development with a range of partners, including the Green Climate Fund, UN Women, and other bilateral and multilateral donors is expected to intensify in the coming years. With a view towards operationalizing the next phase of the Finance Unit's activities in 2024 and beyond, particularly the AgriPhotovoltaics Asia Project, Climate-Friendly Agricultural Value Chains Project, the Clean Energy Latin American Facility, and the Green Public Procurement for Climate project, the Associate Expert will be based with the Unit's project implementation core team in Paris, France.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

Requests for assistance to UNEP from developing countries in the field of sustainable energy development are growing. Climate Finance has been highlighted as a focus for the coming decade, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine Crisis, as governments continue to announce economic recovery packages with a priority being promoting and financing green initiatives, with agriculture and infrastructure being highlighted as pillars for both economic recovery and climate resilience.

The portfolio of the Finance Unit has expanded globally, new projects are expected to be launched in 2024 in South and East Asia, Latin America, and in the MENA region. As these projects come online, the Associate Expert will provide coordination support and technical expertise for the development of the Finance Unit activities, building in the success of prior projects.

The Associate Expert will support the Finance Unit, integrate its ongoing work stream in clean energy finance with new governmental priorities in infrastructure and agricultural resilience, as well as in the following areas:

- 1) Supporting coordination of AgriPV Asia Project, Clean Energy Latin American Facility, and Climate-Friendly Agricultural Value Chain Project.
- 2) Mapping of existing and prior initiatives and projects, with a view to scaling up and replicating success of prior programmes regionally and globally.
- 3) Strengthening of political support and incentive frameworks, and engagement on climate finance within the selected regions.
- 4) Capacity building, mobilization and strengthening of partnerships at all levels in the selected regions.
- 5) Development of project proposals and initiatives targeting specific sources of climate finance, including the GCF, GEF, and national governments.

Supervision

First reporting officer:

Françoise D'Estais

Head, Finance Unit

Energy and Climate Branch (Industry and Economy Division)

United Nations Environment Programme

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Paris, FRANCE

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Second reporting officer:

Mark Radka

Chief, Energy and Climate Branch (Economy Division)

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Content and methodology of the supervision

With the support of the second reporting officer, the first reporting officer will, as necessary:

- Present to the Associate Expert the role and activities of the Energy and Climate Branch, specifically that of the Finance Unit, including an introduction to each of the Unit's flagship projects- The Sustainable Energy Investment Programme, Seed Capital Assistance Facility, and the Clean Captive Installations for Industrial Clients. They, together with the programme managers of each project, will provide the Associate Expert a detailed work program with implementation deadlines and performance indicators.

- Meet twice a month with the Associate Expert to assess the implementation of the tasks previously discussed, examine the challenges encountered and provide feedback on the work accomplished, specifically as it concerns the Associate Expert's professional development, learning goals, and job satisfaction.
- Meet twice a year with the secondary administrator for a more formal discussion and assessment of the progress of the work.
- Provide regular comments, advice and evaluations for the implementation of the work program.

First appraising officer: Mr./Ms

Title first appraising officer

Unit first appraising officer

Location first appraising officer

Second appraising officer: Mr./Ms.

Title second appraising officer

Unit second appraising officer

Location second appraising officer

See above

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Under the supervision of their reporting officer, and with the support of each project manager, the Associate Expert will contribute, to the implementation of the Mediterranean Investment Sustainable Energy Facility, Seed Capital Assistance Facility, and the Clean Captive Installations for Industrial Clients.

- Support operationalization, in close cooperation with the local and regional partners, the implementation of activities relating to the Clean Energy Latin American Facility
- Support operationalization, in close cooperation with the local and regional partners, the implementation of activities relating to the AgriPV Asia Project
- Support operationalization, in close cooperation with the local and regional partners, the implementation of activities relating to the Transition to Climate-Friendly Agricultural Value Chain by Empowering Women's Access to Sustainable Energy in Morocco GCF project
- Contribute towards mapping of existing and prior initiatives and projects, with a view towards scaling up and replicating success of prior programmes regionally and globally;

- Strengthening political support and incentive frameworks, and engagement on climate finance in the target region;
- Capacity building, mobilization and strengthening of partnerships at all levels in the target region;
- Conduct national and regional consultations in order to develop new proposals and sustainable energy finance projects to be presented to donors including the GCF, GEF, and national governments.

In a transversal manner, the Associate Expert will also:

- Contribute to other projects and activities under UNEP's Climate Change sub-program;
- Contribute to the development of synergies with other sub-programs as required through the UNEP Annual Work Program;
- Contribute to the production of documents adapted to both technical and non-technical audiences.

Travel

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during first year of assignment

Between two to four missions costing: US \$ 6,000 to US \$ 8,000.

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during second year of assignment

Between two to four missions costing: US \$ 6,000 to US \$ 8,000.

Training and Learning Elements

Training

The Associate Expert will benefit from training (in language, communication, information technology, gender equality, matters of safety and security) linked to specific work needs. The training will also include specific components on the mitigation of climate change and sustainable development.

Learning elements:

After one year the Associate Expert has:

- An understanding of UNEP's broad climate change and mitigation portfolio;
- An understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by developing countries in the achievement of their sustainable development objectives, as well as their international commitments;
- An understanding of the role of UNEP in the United Nations system as well as UN rules;
- The experience of working with multiple governmental actors that require support in the effective implementation of their policies and partnerships, as well as capacity building in preparation for the implementation work of their INDCs (national contributions to the fight against climate change);
- Developed their negotiation, editing, writing, communication, organizational and evaluation skills

After two years the Associate Expert has:

- An excellent understanding of intergovernmental processes, UNEP's mitigation portfolio, engagement by development organizations in South-East Asia, as well as the needs of South-East Asian countries to improve their sustainable energy systems;
- A developed understanding of the different political, technological and investment opportunities, best practices and challenges in climate change mitigation;
- Developed competencies in project management and development in the sustainable energy finance space;
- Knowledge relating to the integration of low carbon approaches and sustainable energy within the UNEP mitigation sub-program, with the ultimate objective of improving the framework, relevance and effectiveness of UNEP activities.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications

A university degree (master's or equivalent) in the fields of environment management, sustainable development, finance, international relations, law, economics, engineering, political science or a related discipline.

Skills

- Excellent analytical, communication, planning and organizational skills;
- Fluency in written and oral English. Good knowledge of French, Spanish, or a regional language would be an asset;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in a multicultural business environment.

Working experience

- Relevant professional experience of at least four years at national level or two years at the international level in the field of sustainable energy systems, energy efficiency or the implementation of environmental projects.
- A prior experience with climate change mitigation and / or the development of sustainable energy would be an advantage.
- Experience in project development in developing countries or emerging countries would also be an asset.

Competencies

- Reliability
- Innovation
- Dynamism
- Team work

Living conditions at duty station

Paris: Normal living conditions for developed country in Europe