

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title	Junior Professional Officer, Science-Policy, Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution
Office/division/MEA:	Ecosystems Division
Unit	Source to Sea Pollution Unit
Location:	Nairobi, Kenya
Duration:	2-3 Years

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit

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.

A priority area of focus is the implementation of the four marine litter resolutions have been adopted by the UN Environment Assembly to date namely 1/6: Marine plastic debris and microplastics (2014); 2/11: Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2016); 3/7: Marine litter and microplastics (2017); and 4/6 Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2019). All resolutions have called for increased coordination through/with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter which was recently rebranded the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter.

The third session of the UNEP Assembly stressed the importance of a zero vision i.e., long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics. It further urged all actors to step up actions to “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution” and for UNEP to strengthen its contribution to the Global Partnership, for which it provides secretariat services.

The fifth session of UNEA adopted resolution 5/14 plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and provided the mandate for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to conclude its work by end of 2024, preceeded by an open-ended working group and followed by a diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries.

UNEA resolution 5/14 requested the Executive Director to continue to support and advance the work of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, while strengthening scientific, technical and technological knowledge with regard to plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on methodologies for monitoring, and sharing available scientific and other relevant data and information.

As the custodian agency for SDG Indicator 14.1.1, ‘Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density,’ UNEP is also tasked with supporting countries to implement methodologies and procedures to report against target 14.1 ‘By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution’. This is a key area for which additional human resources are needed to further ongoing activities such as capacity development initiatives as well development of the GPML Digital

Platform on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter which feeds into the World Environment Situation Room. This includes strengthening of the science-policy interface to inform action.

The Junior Professional Officer will work in the Source to Sea Pollution Unit in the Marine and Freshwater Branch in the Ecosystems Division.

UNEA resolutions have addressed various aspects of marine litter and plastic pollution since its first meeting. The UN Environment Assembly resolutions 1/6, 2/11, 3/7, 4/6 and 5/14 related to marine litter and plastic pollution have guided UNEP's work on marine litter and plastic pollution building on the following principles and approaches: Use of the precautionary approach; Promotion of interventions which are based on best available knowledge of sources and levels of marine litter and plastic pollution in the environment, prioritizing policies and measures at the appropriate scale to reduce and prevent leakage of plastic from entering the environment including oceans. Addressing such materials at source, by reducing pollution through improved waste management practices in line with the waste hierarchy with a source-to-sea and life cycle approach; acknowledging that the levels and sources of marine litter and plastic pollution, and the resources available to tackle the issue, can vary between regions, and that measures need to be taken and adapted as appropriate to local, national and regional situations; Risk-based approach i.e. problem identification and formulation is followed by a characterization of exposure and effect and lead to the identification of potential intervention points and an evaluation of possible risk management actions, to 'close the loop'; Providing advice on the prioritizing of activities upon request based on best available scientific knowledge, and the most environmentally sound risk-based and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce marine litter and plastic pollution.

UNEP's publication *From Pollution to Solution* has further provided the state of knowledge on the issue of marine litter and plastic pollution and is further informing discussions on global action and a strengthened science-policy interface.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

The Ecosystems Division is leading the implementation of key aspects of the resolutions above and provides secretariat functions to the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter. To respond to this increased demand and to ensure the efficient delivery of actions related to these responsibilities, there is a clear need to increase the human resources for plastic pollution and marine litter work. A Junior Professional Officer for 2-3 years would greatly increase implementation.

Supervision

Direct supervision: Ms. Heidi Savelli Soderberg
Title supervisor: Programme Officer
Unit supervisor: Source to Sea Pollution Unit (GPA)
Location supervisor: Nairobi
Address, e-mail of supervisor
P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya, heidi.savelli@un.org

The E-Performance system is to be used to appraise the Junior Professional Officers. The Performance Appraisal is also submitted to the donor-government.

Content and methodology of the supervision

The Junior Professional Officer will be introduced to the work of the relevant unit and related programmes/projects after which work programme discussion will take place to provide guidance for the development of the Personnel Appraisal System including measurable targets and project implementation goals. Weekly meetings would address assessment of short-term accomplishments, and review of problems, while quarterly meetings would focus on discussions on job-satisfaction, guidance in the development of the work plan and project implementation. Learning objectives will be developed with quarterly and annual targets.

General objectives, desired results and anticipated problems are discussed beforehand with the incumbent. Regular feedback on the progress of activities is obtained by the supervisor through review of work in process. The incumbent is expected to carry out the duties under general supervision and to consult with the supervisor on issues of policy or other sensitive matters. Final results of each set of activities, is reviewed for attainment of objectives and quality of work.

First appraising officer: Ms. Heidi Savelli Soderberg

Title first appraising officer: Programme Officer

Unit first appraising officer: Pollution Free Ecosystems Unit (Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities) Marine litter and plastic pollution

Location first appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Second appraising officer: Ms. Tessa Goverse

Title second appraising officer: Chief

Unit second appraising officer: Pollution Free Ecosystems Unit (Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities)

Location second appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

The Junior Professional Officer will mainly be responsible of the following activities:

- 1) Assist with the implementation of UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 in particular, support to the action tracks under the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter;
- 2) Assist with support to countries to reach the SDG goal 14.1 on marine litter as well as linkages to SDG 6, 11 and 12;
- 3) Assist with strengthening the science-policy interface building on e.g., findings of the “From Pollution to Solution” report and ensuring that the most recent available science is used to support stakeholder action;
- 4) Supporting the expansion of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter and its Digital Platform by providing secretariat services and promoting increased coordination amongst actors including continuously identify, test and prototype new multi-stakeholder tools and approaches to promote usage, collaboration and action through the

platform while ensuring interoperability and clear linkages with existing UNEP knowledge platforms such as the World Environment Situation Room;

- 5) Support countries in the development and implementation of source inventories to inform national and regional actions to address plastic pollution and marine litter, in close coordination with relevant Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans;
- 6) Assist with progressing monitoring and assessment of plastic pollution and marine litter activities, such as the capacity development programme in close coordination with targeted countries, implementing partners, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and other relevant stakeholders.
- 7) Assist with the further implementation of capacity development efforts and online tools and resources such as the Massive Open Online Courses on plastic pollution and marine litter;

Output expectations

- 1) Contribute to the implementation of relevant UNEA resolutions
- 2) Successful reporting on the implementation of UNEA resolutions;
- 3) Enhanced science-policy interface;
- 4) Strengthened Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter and expanded components of the Digital Platform (e.g., capacity development and scientific aspects);
- 5) Progress in the development of national source inventories for plastic pollution and marine litter action;
- 6) Strengthened capacity of countries to report on SDG 14.1.1 and other relevant SDGs;
- 7) Successful implementation of the capacity development programme including the revised Massive Open Online Course as well as additional language versions;

Travel

Missions and travel will be demand based and funded from the programme. During the first year, the Junior Professional Officer will go on a minimum of 3 missions. Other travels related to the implementation of the programme most likely happen based on the demand and need.

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during first year of assignment US\$ 10,000

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during second year of assignment US\$ 10,000

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during third year of assignment (if applicable) US\$ 10,000

Training and Learning Elements

Training will be an important part of the Junior Professional Officer assignment, and the incumbent will be requested to take various mandatory UN training as well as periodical training related to the content of the work. In addition, to on the job training the Junior Professional Officer will have access to language training, computer training Performance Appraisal training as well as substantive (environmental) training courses including the Training of Trainers on Assessment and Monitoring of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution which the incumbent will participate in to thereafter support its implementation. The Junior Professional Officer will also be required to travel to conferences and workshops related to plastic pollution and marine litter.

Learning elements:

After one year the Junior Professional Officer is able to: understand technical issues in relation to marine litter and plastic pollution, write assessment reports, assess project proposals, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate job-descriptions and project documents, and monitor progress in solving problems. The Junior Professional Officer will also have increased knowledge of the UN system, contacts in and outside the UN system, understanding multicultural work-environment, and have increased familiarity with UN rules and regulations. In addition, the Junior Professional Officer will be able to prepare and lead member webinars for the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter and become familiar with source inventories and harmonization of monitoring methodologies for plastic pollution and marine litter in support of SDG 14.1.1 and other relevant SDGs.

After two years the Junior Professional Officer is able to: write assessment reports, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate job descriptions and project documents, develop project documents and technical concept notes, monitor progress in solving problems, formulate remedial action proposals, prepare documentation, and facilitate Steering Committee Meetings and Communities of Practice of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter, and identify emerging issues on plastic pollution and marine litter. The Junior Professional Officer will also have improved negotiating skills, editing/writing/reporting, and organizational/evaluation skills.

After three years (if applicable) the Junior Professional Officer is able to: assess and write UN programme of work documents, as well as large-scale proposals for marine litter and plastic pollution relevant fund raising and coordinate strategic outreach. for the expansion of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution Marine Litter and capacity development for SDG 14.1.1 reporting.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental sciences, engineering, natural resources, knowledge management. etc.), A first-level university degree in combination with four years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Skills/Working experience: Length and type of practical experience at the national, and if so required, at the international level: At least 4 years at the national level, or 2 years at the international level e.g., in sustainable development and implementation of environmental related programmes, projects and activities is required. Any experience in working on marine litter and plastic pollution related issues is an advantage. Experience in stakeholder engagement and communication is desirable, Advanced IT skills are desirable. Ability for creative thinking and new ideas is essential.

Languages: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (oral and written) is required.

Competencies

The candidate should have:

- 1) **Good communication skills:** speaks and writes clearly and effectively in English – working knowledge of Spanish or French would be an asset
- 2) **Teamwork:** able to work in collaboration with colleagues from different backgrounds and with different nationalities; solicits guidance where appropriate from his/her supervisor

- 3) **Creativity:** Not bound by current thinking or traditional approaches and seeks to consider new ideas and approaches to problem solving

Living conditions at duty stations

Nairobi has been classified by the UN as a "B" hardship duty station. Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa.