

UNEP JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title: Junior Water Resources Officer in the Freshwater Unit
Unit: Freshwater Unit, Ecosystems Division
Location: UNEP, Nairobi
Duration: 2-3 years

Background information on UNEP and 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.

The UNEP Medium-Term Strategy aims at addressing the climate, nature, and pollution crises our planet is facing. Freshwater ecosystems and improving management of freshwater resources plays a pivotal role and forms part of the solution, giving rise to the backbone of UNEP's Global Freshwater Strategy 2022-2025 in implementation of its MTS. Furthermore the 2030 Agenda provides a unique and strong global policy framework as a foundation to address freshwater issues over the coming years. UNEP's global mandate and comparative advantage make it well placed and prepared to support countries to implement the water-related SDG targets, with an official role as the custodian agency responsible for global monitoring and reporting of SDG targets relating to protecting and restoring freshwater ecosystems (SDG target 6.6), addressing ambient water quality of water bodies (SDG target 6.3) and implementing Integrated Water Resources Management, or IWRM (SDG target 6.5).

Priorities would be experience and demonstrated interested in water linked to climate, food, biodiversity, ecosystems and/or pollution. This work is increasingly expected to support international diplomacy and transboundary cooperation, poverty and conflict prevention.

Other strategic activities that the JPO will contribute to includes developing local implementation projects on preventing marine pollution in partnership with the UNEP-Rotary Adopt a River Partnership. Advocacy, awareness-raising and communication campaigns and related outreach activities will also be included.

Why is JPO requested/needed?

The Junior Water Resources Officer (JPO) will be placed in the Freshwater Unit and will primarily support the unit to address emerging and growing topics and help implement the UNEP Freshwater Strategy 2022 – 2025, and the growing demands on the unit expected to come out of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its Water Action Agenda.

This work will also provide an excellent learning opportunity for the JPO, which will serve her/him well in a future career. The knowledge and experience gathered from UNEP's work on freshwater and marine interlinkages and associated policy implementation, capacity building and replication, is foreseen to be highly relevant and valuable for the candidate's home country/organization upon completion of the JPO assignment.

Supervision

Direct supervision by: Ms. Elisabeth Mullin Bernhardt

Address, telephone and e-mail of supervisor

First Reporting Officer:

Ms. Elisabeth Mullin Bernhardt
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Content and methodology of the supervision

The Supervisor has more than 20 years' experience as a manager and supervisor of which 10 years in the UN system:

1. The JPO will be introduced to personnel within the Nairobi-based staff of the Branch, as well as other relevant Units and branches worldwide.
2. The JPO will be invited to participate in relevant upcoming regional/international water-related events.
3. The supervisor will outline the scope and focus of the work and immediate priorities. The terms of reference and work plan of the JPO will be entered into the e-performance system including the setting of learning and training objectives for his or her career development.
4. The supervisor and JPO will jointly agree on development objectives, goals and actions for the coming year. The supervisor will endeavour to support the JPO with training and possible travel opportunities to undertake tasks and to build professional skills and network.
5. The supervisor will have weekly meetings with the incumbent giving guidance for problem-solving and assistance in identifying experience opportunities.
6. The work plan will be reviewed after the first six months. At the same time, the supervisor will make a performance evaluation and share this with the donor. The JPO will be expected to carry out assignments more independently after this first review.

7. There will be mid-term review and an annual e-performance evaluation for the JPO. This will be first carried out by the First Reporting Officer (FRO), i.e. the direct supervisor, and then by the Second Reporting Officer (SRO).

First reporting officer: Ms. Elisabeth Mullin Bernhardt

Title first reporting officer: Programme Management Officer

Unit first reporting officer: Freshwater Ecosystems Unit

Location first reporting officer: UNEP, Nairobi

Second reporting officer: Mr. Joakim Harlin

Title second reporting officer: Chief, Freshwater Unit

Unit second reporting officer: Freshwater Ecosystems Unit

Location second reporting officer: UNEP, Nairobi

Duties, responsibilities, and output expectations

Terms of reference

- Contribute to the development and implementation of projects in line with the UNEPs Freshwater Strategy 2022 – 2025, water-related UNEA Resolutions and the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its Water Action Agenda including links to climate, food, biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and pollution.
- Assisting with the ongoing monitoring and assessment of environmental outcomes associated with SDG 6 and in relation to plastics in freshwater and its impact on marine litter
- Contribute to action orientated global initiatives, including SDG targets on IWRM, water quality and freshwater ecosystems; UNEA resolution on sustainable lake management; and the Adopt a River initiative for Sustainable Development
- Assist in the development and maintenance of partnerships to support freshwater aspects of international diplomacy and transboundary cooperation, poverty and conflict prevention
- Help in the planning, delivering and supporting of national and regional training workshops, webinars, tutorials, and other events (virtual and in-person).
- Assist in developing and rolling out advocacy, awareness-raising, knowledge management and outreach activities.
- Assist in researching and drafting of sessions, webinars, presentations and funding proposals.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Output expectations

- Case studies, strategic notes, articles and inputs to publications as needed, including for the SDG indicators and reports.

- Well prepared and delivered webinars and presentations
- New and/or strengthened partnerships on monitoring and modelling explored and further developed.
- Local implementation projects identified and implemented, for example through the UNEP-Rotary Adopt a River Partnership.

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

0-1 international trips of up to one week each, TBD, at \$5,000 USD (US Dollar) per mission

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during second year of assignment

1-2 international trips of up to one week each, TBD, at \$5,000 USD per mission

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during third year of assignment (if applicable)

1-2 international trips of up to one week each, TBD, at \$5,000 USD per mission

Training and Learning Elements

Training

1. The JPO will obtain in-house training in monitoring methodologies, project development and management and report writing.
2. The JPO will be offered language training at UN Compound for any UN language.
3. The JPO will also be supported to make use of the available training budget including participation at major water conferences which provide opportunity for learning and networking.

Learning elements:

After one year: Preparation and dissemination of technical materials. Understanding of the multi-cultural work environment of the UN system and how this impinges in project design and implementation.

After two years: Familiarity with preparing of project proposals, project management, project monitoring and reporting, preparation of self-evaluation sheets and terminal reports. Familiarity with working with country stakeholders and organizing and participating in steering group meetings and workshops.

After three years: Familiarity with the drafting of policies, guidelines, methods, and procedures for carrying out major source-to-sea projects as well as local action projects; reviewing draft documents; recommending appropriate follow-up activities and opportunities for dissemination.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications

Skills

Language proficiency required: Fluency in written and spoken English is essential, with ability to communicate in a concise, clear, and compelling way. Working knowledge of French, Chinese, Arabic, and/or Russian is an asset.

Work experience

Experience and demonstrated interest in water linked to climate, food, biodiversity, ecosystems and/or pollution. This work is increasingly expected to support international diplomacy and transboundary cooperation, poverty and conflict prevention.

Competencies

The three most relevant UN core competencies for this post are:

1. Communication
2. Teamwork
3. Technological Awareness

Living conditions at duty station

Standard conditions apply (Nairobi duty station).