

UNEP Junior Professional Officer REQUEST

General Information

Post Title: Associate Enforcement Support Officer
Unit: CITES Secretariat, Enforcement Unit
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Duration: 2 to 3 years

Background information on UNEP and requesting Unit: CITES Secretariat

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 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between States. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival (www.cites.org). The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP and is located at the Geneva duty station.

The CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 states that the purpose of CITES is to conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss and making a significant contribution towards achieving the relevant *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*. The CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 builds upon this and envisage in its Vision Statement that by 2030, all international trade in wild fauna and flora is legal and sustainable, consistent with the long-term conservation of species, and thereby contributing to halting biodiversity loss, to ensuring its sustainable use, and to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CITES provide the fundamental legal framework for the regulation of international trade in CITES listed species. In June 2012 Heads of State and government at Rio+20 explicitly recognized the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, the need to take action on both the supply and demand sides, and the important role of CITES. In November 2022 the 19th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP19) took strong, action-oriented decisions to combat illegal trade in wildlife that address the entire enforcement chain across source, transit and destination countries. The Convention's emphasis on effective implementation, as well as the significant level of illegal trade in wildlife that is known to exist, have led to the development of a very active programme within CITES which provides legislative, compliance and enforcement assistance. Parties are regularly provided with policy or operational support as well as information and advice for the targeting of enforcement efforts. The CITES Secretariat is also working closely with its partners in the

International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), a collaborative effort by five inter-governmental organizations (the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime.

Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) urges CITES Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide additional financial support for the enforcement of the Convention, by providing funds for the enforcement assistance work of the Secretariat. It also directs the Secretariat to utilize such funds towards the appointment of additional officers to the Secretariat to work on enforcement-related matters.

Why is JPO requested/needed?

It is now well recognized that illegal trafficking in wildlife involves transnational organized crime groups, and concern over this illicit trade has been expressed at the highest political level. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in July 2015, unanimously adopted a Resolution on ‘Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife’, the first dedicated Resolution on the topic adopted by the UNGA. The UNGA Resolution calls for firm and strengthened national measures, and an enhanced regional and global response, including by strengthening legislation, providing for offences related to illegal trafficking in wildlife to be treated as predicate offences and taking steps to prohibit, prevent and counter corruption. On 25 September 2015, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit adopted the new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, which represent the agreed vision of the 193 Member States of the UN for the next 15 years, call for the protection of wild fauna and flora as well as the ecosystems that they depend on. The SDGs specifically address tackling illegal trafficking in wildlife through specific Targets under Goal 15, as follows:

- 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.
- 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

More recently, the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, adopted a Resolution on Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, which reinforces the focus on key areas in the fight against illicit trafficking in wildlife, including enhanced national legislation, supporting sustainable livelihoods, stronger law enforcement, countering corruption, deploying information technologies and undertaking well targeted demand reduction efforts. The Resolution places strong emphasis on the role of CITES and highlights the importance of the work of ICCWC.

There is currently a global collective effort across governments, the UN, international and national organizations, the private sector, local communities and others, underway, to

combat wildlife crime. This has also led to an escalation of the work of the CITES Secretariat in this regard.

In addition, significant funding towards the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme enable the Consortium to scale up significantly the level of support that it can provide to Parties and recognizes the central role of ICCWC in building long-term capacity among enforcement authorities dealing with wildlife crime, by providing them with the tools, services and technical support they need to fight organized crime and corruption. Globally there is also a growing expectation of support to be provided by ICCWC, which creates further pressures on the limited resources of the CITES Secretariat.

The services of a JPO can significantly benefit and contribute to the implementation programs and activities on enforcement matters of the CITES Secretariat. These are multiple and diverse in nature, and include the implementation of key CITES processes, such as the CITES National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) Process, and key enforcement matters, such as anti-money-laundering and asset forfeiture, the prevention and combating of corruption, the use of forensic technology to combat wildlife crime, addressing wildlife crime on the internet, and others.

It further entails engagement with intergovernmental organizations primarily charged with dealing with enforcement issues, such as INTERPOL, UNODC, and the WCO, as well as others such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This post will provide the JPO with a unique and valuable learning experience, exposing the JPO to a variety of diverse tasks.

Supervision

The JPO would develop and agree with the Supervisor a yearly work programme (including development goals). Regular feedback would be provided in relation to work or questions on specific tasks as well as any policy issues that arise. The E-Performance system will be used to appraise the JPO, including a mid-term evaluation and final evaluation during each yearly reporting period. The Performance Appraisal will also be submitted to the donor-government.

Content and methodology of the supervision:

The JPO will be provided with a thorough introduction on the role and activities of the CITES Secretariat Enforcement Support Team and will work closely with experienced team members on a variety of activities. This will facilitate a work environment that provides optimal opportunity for development and learning, both through the delivery of activities using own initiative and through mentorship by experienced staff. This will include frequent discussions on job-satisfaction and based on these discussions, consideration of any changes to the development plan of the JPO as may be needed.

Direct supervision by: Mr Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG
Title of supervisor: Chief, Enforcement Unit
Unit of supervisor: CITES Secretariat

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First appraising officer: Mr. Ben JANSE VAN RENSBURG
Title first appraising officer: Chief, Enforcement Unit
Unit first appraising officer: Enforcement Support
Location first appraising officer: Geneva

Second appraising officer: Ms. Ivonne Higuero
Title second appraising officer: Secretary-General
Unit second appraising officer: Secretary-General's Office
Location second appraising officer: Geneva

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Overall, the JPO will assist the Chief of the CITES Enforcement Support Unit in the development and practical implementation of unit activities related to enforcement assistance, with particular emphasis on CITES decisions, resolutions and recommendations.

Terms of Reference (TOR):

- Assist in the implementation of CITES decisions and recommendations related to enforcement matters;
- Assist in obtaining/assessing enforcement-related information and in providing practical implementation advice and support to national enforcement authorities of the Parties;
- Support activities to facilitate strong engagement with agencies in the criminal justice system for the practical implementation of coordinated law enforcement

support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime

- Assist in liaising with and providing support to the ICCWC partner agencies and other relevant agencies;
- Assist in the preparation and delivery of training material related to implementation of the Convention and ICCWC activities;
- Research and draft reports, briefing papers and documentation related to enforcement matters required for meetings of Convention bodies (e.g. the technical committees, Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties);
- Raise awareness of the strategic and operational Decisions, Resolutions and Recommendations on enforcement matters adopted by CITES governing bodies amongst agencies responsible for wildlife law enforcement;
- Communicate and cooperate with relevant functional teams to ensure provision of appropriate assistance to member States;
- Support the development and implementation of regional and global operations to combat wildlife crime, such as Operation Thunderbird.
- Support the review of tools being developed to enhance capacity to combat wildlife crime, such as for example the ICCWC Indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime and the ICCWC Guidelines on methods and procedures for ivory sampling and laboratory analysis;
- Supporting the development, implementation, completion and successful closure of funding agreements and consultancies on enforcement matters;
- Providing support in the maintenance of dedicated web-portals and pages on enforcement matters on the CITES Secretariat website;
- Support activities related to side events at relevant meetings, to showcase the work on enforcement matters of the CITES Secretariat and ICCWC; and
- Undertake other tasks agreed with the Chief of the Unit.

Output expectations

Scaling up of activities to address wildlife crime and facilitate effective enforcement of the Convention, including through enhanced implementation of CITES decisions, resolutions and recommendations on enforcement matters, enhanced law enforcement cooperation across range, transit and destination States, and the expansion of collaborative activities with ICCWC partner agencies.

Travel

There are likely to be 2-3 missions per year. This may include joint missions to individual countries to assess enforcement needs, verify implementation of the Convention or provide technical assistance/training; and missions to relevant meetings of CITES and ICCWC partners.

These missions can as be needed be funded or co funded by the funding available to the Secretariat for its work on enforcement matters and under the ICCWC strategic programme.

Training and Learning Elements

This assignment would involve on-the-job learning related to the Convention, the United Nations and international relations, wildlife law enforcement and natural resource management. There would be frequent contact with a range of national and international authorities as well as regular participation in international meetings which would be both professionally and personally enriching. A variety of UN training interventions and tools will also be accessible to the JPO.

Training

The JPO would be provided structured training on the Convention and related issues both within the Secretariat and through various meetings or workshops. He or she would also be eligible for language training at the UN Office at Geneva. The Secretariat has modern equipment and a well-developed website which will provide the JPO with an opportunity to stay abreast of current developments in this field and related fields.

Learning elements:

After one year the JPO is able to:

Provide guidance and support to CITES Parties on the implementation of CITES decisions, resolutions and recommendations on enforcement matters.

After two years the JPO is able to:

Support enhanced law enforcement cooperation across range, transit and destination States, liaise with relevant international bodies and assist in drafting reports, briefing papers and documentation related to enforcement matters required for meetings of Convention bodies.

After three years (if applicable) the JPO is able to:

Develop and provide CITES enforcement training. Prepare specific project proposals for cooperation with ICCWC partners.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications:

A first-level university degree in law enforcement, policing, criminal justice, homeland security, environmental law or related field. Relevant experience may be accepted in lieu of the university degree.

Skills:

Fluency in oral and written English. Good working knowledge of French and Spanish is desirable.

Working experience:

A minimum of two years of working experience in the field of CITES implementation or law enforcement at national or international level is required.

Competencies

The JPO should be able to act with integrity demonstrating the values of the United Nations in daily activities and behaviors, be accountable, respect diversity and work effectively with people from all backgrounds, work well in a team, exercise good judgment and take initiative in the execution of tasks. He or she should have good written and oral communication.

Professionalism, communication, teamwork, planning & organization and accountability.

Living conditions at duty station

The city of Geneva provides excellent living conditions for those who come from abroad to work at the UN or other organizations.