

## **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST**

### **General Information**

**Post Title:** Associate Legal Officer – environmental crime

**Office/division/MEA:** National Environmental Law Unit, Law Division

**Unit:** National Environmental Law Unit

**Location:** UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

**Duration:** Two to three years depending on the practice of government that is funding the JPO post.

### **Background information on UNEP and the requesting Unit**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 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.

This position is located in UNEP's Law Division at its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The Law Division is the lead Division charged with carrying out the functions of UNEP in the field of environmental law, governance and related policy issues, including those related to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The focus of the National Environmental Law Unit is to provide technical support to countries to develop/strengthen and implement/enforce environmental law. The Unit works closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in capacity building activities that cut across environmental and criminal law, notably wildlife and waste trafficking. In that respect, UNEP and UNODC recognize the strong complementarity of their mandates.

The Unit also hosts the secretariat to the Green Customs Initiative (GCI). The GCI's contribution in preventing and combatting crimes that affect the environment has been recognized by the General Assembly in resolution 76/185. The GCI partners are the secretariats of relevant trade related MEAs, and international organizations that collectively strive to enhance the capacity of customs and border enforcement agencies to implement the related agreements by combatting illegal trade of environmentally sensitive commodities and promoting their legal trade.<sup>1</sup> GCI does this through, among others, trainings and development of national curricula and knowledge products. In response to requests from the competent national authorities, the GCI supports capacity building/training activities.

Since 2020, the work of the Unit has also been defined by the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Environmental Law Programme) (UNEA Resolution 4/20) as well as co-

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.greencustoms.org/our-partners>.

operation with UN Country Resident Coordinators under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF).

The incumbent will support the work of the Division in activities relating to enforcement and environmental crime, including support of the GCI secretariat, collaboration with UNODC and the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/185 entitled “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment” and follow up processes.

### **Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?**

The Junior Professional Officer is urgently needed to support the Division and the Unit in discharging its functions as the GCI secretariat (UNDA Res. 76/185) and effectively collaborating with UNODC in preventing and combatting activities that affect the environment.

Apart from existing activities with UNODC on illegal trade in wildlife and its products and waste trafficking (including plastics), UNEP and UNODC plan to expand their activities in the area of illegal logging, illegal mining and maritime crime. The Junior Professional Officer will thus support the Division to deliver results on various activities under the prevailing UNEP Programme of Work, and the relevant United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions and decisions (including UNEA Res. 4/20 adopting the Montevideo Programme).

Specifically, the Junior Professional Officer will be expected to support with:

- Strategic research, programme and project development, monitoring and reporting, implementation and partnership development, for the promotion of effective legal frameworks at global, regional and national levels in order to strengthen environmental rule of law, with a focus on environmental crime and other violations of environmental law;
- Initiatives by developing countries to implement, monitor and achieve compliance with, and enforcement of, environmental obligations, with a focus on trade-related measures set out in multilateral environmental agreements;
- Organization and servicing of meetings and workshops; preparation of reports; liaising and engaging with regional offices for input and developing guidance materials and web-based information, notably in relation to the Green Customs Initiative.

The Junior Professional Officer would play an important role in supporting these functions. It is a very exciting opportunity for a young environmental lawyer and a platform to work with all Member States.

## **Supervision**

The United Nations overall e-performance system will be used as a model for appraising the Junior Professional Officer's performance. Appraisals of the Junior Professional Officer's performance will be shared with the donor Government. The Junior Professional Officer will work under the direct supervision of the Head of the National Environmental Law Unit, Law Division or her/his designated representative.

## **Content and methodology of the supervision**

Supervision will include an introduction of the Junior Professional Officer to the Unit, the Division and on UNEP, its structure and place in the United Nations System, its various Divisions and sub-programmes; a discussion of the terms of reference of the Unit, the current Programme of Work of UNEP and the project portfolio of the Unit as well as the specific tasks for the Junior Professional Officer notably in regard to the work of the Division on environmental crime and the joint activities with UNODC. The Junior Professional Officer will participate in Unit and Division meetings. He/she will receive feedback on his/her work on a regular basis and have face-to-face meetings with his/her supervisor every two weeks. The Legal Officer will provide a biannual evaluation following the general standards under the United Nations e-performance system that includes review of goals, of related actions and success criteria, any performance issues, discussion on job satisfaction and aspirations, career development plans and learning objectives.

First appraising officer: Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi

Title first appraising officer: Legal Officer, National Environmental Law Unit, Law Division

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Second appraising officer: *tbc*

Title second appraising officer: Head, National Environmental Law Unit, Law Division

Unit second appraising officer: National Environmental Law Unit

Location second appraising officer: New Office Facility, Block 1, Level 2, North Wing, P.O. Box 30552 – 00100, Nairobi, KENYA

## **Duties, responsibilities, and output expectations**

### *Terms of reference*

Under the supervision of the Legal Officer, and the overall supervision of the Head, National Environmental Law Unit, the Junior Professional Officer will:

1. Support the tasks of the Unit as the Green Customs Initiative secretariat by liaising with GCI partners, contribute to the planning and implementation of agreed activities, service the GCI partners' meetings, and contribute to the content and maintenance of the GCI web site.
2. Support (a) research, analysis and review of the current status of knowledge and the national, regional and international trends of themes of environmental law, with a focus on environmental crime; and (b) assessments of the role of regional and national institutions, strategies, enforcement mechanisms, tools and approaches in that respect to prepare legal briefs that highlight areas of possible intervention for the Unit, and contribute to the development of relevant knowledge products aiming at enhanced stakeholder capacity to prevent and combat activities that affect the environment.
3. Assist in providing technical assistance to countries in the development of national laws that aim to address concerns of environmental crime, as well as in reviewing and analyzing draft texts of environmental legislation delivered by countries for UNEP comments and liaise with UNODC to ensure complementarity of work.
4. Assist in the organization of, and serve as a resource person in, capacity building and training workshops for national law enforcement officials and agencies (including the customs administration), prosecutors, magistrates, judges, etc., by among others preparing background materials, and workshop reports, and making presentations.
5. Assist in project management, implementation and reporting for projects administered or implemented by the Law Division, such as the setting out of implementation arrangements with implementing partners and providing input to the Project Information Management System (PIMS) and donor reports.
6. Undertake any other duties as assigned from time to time.

### *Output expectations*

- Written outputs are based on solid and comprehensive research that reasonably leads to clear findings, suggestions and concrete follow up actions;
- Ideas and suggestions for legislation/regulations;
- Formulation of Small-scale funding agreements and project cooperation agreements;
- Guidebooks, manuals and publications.

## **Travel**

Subject to the applicable rules and regulations on travel, the Junior Professional Officer might be required to travel on missions to attend meetings or to collect data and meet portfolio managers. As it is difficult to predict the future travel requirements, the following costs estimates are tentative:

- 4 Missions and costs of travel envisaged during the first and second year of assignment (US\$5,000/mission)
- 2 Missions and costs of travel envisaged during third year of assignment (if applicable) (US\$5,000/mission)

## **Training and Learning elements**

### *Training*

The Junior Professional Officer will learn and understand how UNEP works with Governments and non-governmental actors as he/she works to facilitate the work of Governments in developing and implementing environmental law.

The UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) provides language training in all official UN languages, as well as in Kiswahili and Portuguese. This service is also available to the Junior Professional Officer. UNON also periodically offers training in several other areas such as presentation and report-writing skills, competency-based interviewing skills, results-based management and project management. These trainings will be available to the Junior Professional Officer.

The supervisor and Junior Professional Officer will discuss and agree on specific training needs and opportunities (for example in relation to project development and management).

### *Learning elements*

After one year the Junior Professional Officer is able to:

- Conduct research on key areas of environmental law and governance, with a focus on environmental crime.
- Prepare reports, documents, and communication materials in the field of environmental law that are comprehensive, accurate and clear.
- Support the provision of technical legal services in line with UN rules and regulations.

After two years the Junior Professional Officer is able to:

- Conduct research and analyze a range of complex issues related to environmental crime.
- Draft project documents, reports and budgets and legal agreements in line with UN rules and regulations.
- Have a thorough understanding of UN and UNEP governance process, UN rules and regulations, UMOJA, including understanding and experience with

implementing programmes such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the work of the United Nations Development Group.

After three years the Junior Professional Officer is able to:

- Provide expert advice on environmental crime and represent the Unit and the Division in expert and inter-agency meetings.
- Lead the coordination of the GCI secretariat on the part of the Unit and the Division, taking initiative for the organization of the meetings, partners' coordination and the preparation of relevant documentation and communication materials.
- Have his/her portfolio of activities in the area of environmental crime for which he/she is responsible to carry out with minimal supervision, as a member of the team.

### **Qualifications and experience**

***Qualifications:*** Advanced university degree in international law or environmental law (LLM) or a first degree in these areas together with a combination of relevant academic and professional experience that goes beyond the minimum work experience referred to below. A specialization in environmental crime, evidenced through specific work experience or research is preferred.

***Work experience:*** At least four years professional experience at national level or two years at the international level, in environmental law, with prior experience in environmental crime desirable. Familiarity with the key multilateral environmental agreements, environmental law at the national level, and capacity building activities required. Experience in the development and implementation of environmental law related programs, projects and activities is preferred. Prior experience at the international level is advantageous.

***Language(s) proficiency required:*** English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (oral and written ) is required. Working knowledge of other UN languages is an asset.

### **Competencies**

***Professionalism:*** Demonstrated professional competence in the field of environmental law, with a keen interest in the area of environmental crime, and in-depth knowledge of international environmental law related instrument, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs); analytical skills and ability to conduct comprehensive legal research on a range of issues, including those of unique and complex nature.

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

***Planning and 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**

The UN classifies Nairobi as class B duty station, entitling UN staff to bi-annual home leave.

Nairobi enjoys normal living conditions for a developing country in Africa.

Comprehensive security advice and support is provided upon arrival.