UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information
Post Title: Associate Programme Officer- World Environment Situation Room
Unit: Environment Situation Room
Location: Nairobi
Duration: 2-3 years

Background information on UN Environment Programme and the requesting Unit
The Early Warning and Assessment Division in Big Data Branch is responsible for the implementation of the World Environment Situation Room project. World Environment Situation Room aims to support the growing demand for substantiated, contextualized knowledge about the environment. The goal of the World Environment Situation Room platform is to:
- implement a global web-based knowledge platform that provides up-to-date data, information and scientific knowledge to keep the environment under review.
- provide tools to strengthen the capacity of countries to do state of the environment reporting and assessments
- create opportunities through sharing of information and data, for research to arise from close collaboration amongst researchers, practitioners and policymakers to support robust, evidence-based assessments and policy analysis

The World Environment Situation Room platform is defined within UN Environment Programme's organization-wide knowledge management strategy as the knowledge integrator of all UN Environment Programme's knowledge portals and products, interlinking with external partner knowledge networks including the UN Environment Programme administered Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) networks, governments and the broader environment community. The maintenance and running of World Environment Situation Room is de-signed to support state of environment reporting, trends and data analysis work across the organisation.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

UN Environment Programme - Live is the platform for sharing data and information. Recently (since UNEA-3(United Nations Environmental Assembly III)), the Early Warning and Assessment Division / GRID-Geneva generated a new tool for geospatial data within UN Environment Programme - Live called the World Environment Situation Room (WESR). It allows users to visualise, interrogate, download data, as well as to create "Story maps" which is an online interactive tool mixing GIS data, models, satellite images, photos, graphs and text which are telling a story supported by data.

Next developments will include the capacity to serve data with SDI technologies, including the capacity to serve MapX geospatial layers through standards such as Web Map Service (WMS). The know-how is there, and a human resource is needed to implement it.

Several functionalities are already embedded such as story maps. Story maps are allowing to mix geospatial data with photo, satellite images, graphs, movies and text to tell a story supported by data. It is a powerful tool to navigate dynamically across a theme, by interacting with maps and data through an enriched experience of story telling, and embedded images and videos provides a convincing presentation, and story maps can also be transformed into small movies for communication purpose.

Dashboards are another key MapX feature. In MapX, dashboards are composed of widgets that can contain key statistics, charts, text or media and can be used to show the temporal evolution of data as well as photos, videos and underlying fact sheets.

The JPO would work with the team in the World Environment Situation Room Unit and all relevant stakeholders to attain the development of the World Environment Situation Room from the current Prototype to a fully-fledged system that meets all evolving user needs.

The JPO would participate in the development of the situation room, as well as outreach activities.

The JPO is required for 2-3 years

Supervision
Direct supervision by: Head of Unit - World Environment Situation Room)
Title supervisor: Head World Environment Situation Room Unit
Location supervisor: World Environment Situation Room Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division
Unit supervisor: World Environment Situation Room Unit

Early Warning and Assessment Division
United Nations Environment
NOF 3 GF North
Nairobi

Content and methodology of the supervision
The supervisor will provide high-quality supervision, guidance and mentoring to the JPO including the following elements:
•   The supervisor will brief the JPO on arrival, as well as carry out introductions to the colleagues in Early Warning and Assessment Division, Regional Offices and Divisions that are involved in the programme;
•   Relevant internal induction documents will be provided to enable the JPO to explore and learn elements of UN Environment Programme's work on a regular basis;
•   Depending on the task, the JPO will be paired with a Unit team member who will provide guidance and advise
•   The JPO will be invited to regular coordination meetings taking place biweekly in the SDG Data and Information Unit, and in the 'Country Outreach, Technology and Innovation' Branch
•   Work plans for the JPO will be discussed in the context of the Objectives and Expectations of the Office's priority areas. The style of supervision will be

inclusive and involve consultations, and regular feedback on the progress of work assigned both individually and with the relevant Programme Teams. The JPO and Supervisors will use *Inspira*, the UN Secretariat platform for online e-Performance, to structure the timing and methodology of feedback and tracking of performance;

- Feedback on the execution of activities will be provided in relation to the delivery of agreed outputs in the work plan.

First appraising officer: Head of Unit - World Environment Situation Room
Title first appraising officer: Head of Unit
Unit first appraising officer: World Environment Situation Room
Location first appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Second appraising officer: Alexandre Caldas
Title second appraising officer: Chief of Big Data Branch, Early Warning and Assessment Division
Branch second appraising officer: Big Data Branch, Early Warning and Assessment Division
Location second appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations
Terms of reference
As part of the World Environment Situation Room team, the JPO will contribute to the following activities:

- To assist with integration of environmental information assets held by the UN, Member States and scientific and technical partners worldwide through World Environment Situation Room.
- Independently provides full range of programme/project management and implementation assistance at all phases of the programme/project cycle.
- Researches, compiles, analyses, summarizes, and presents basic information/data on wide range of programmes/projects and related topics.
- Tracks resolutions and other legislative decisions that affect programme/project content and oversees the preparation of the relevant database(s).
- Establishes internal databases; sets up, files, stores and manages data and information relevant to the scope of programme/project activities.
- Contributes to the technical development of the World Environment Situation Room
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Output expectations
Output 1 World Environment Situation Room developed from Prototype to fully-fledged system
Output 2 Enhanced user experience on the World Environment Situation Room. The availability of the story map and dashboard tool within the WESR to combine authoritative maps with narrative text, images, analysis trends and multimedia content allow the public audience to have a rich and enhanced user experience.

Output 3 Multiple data formats included in the World Environment Situation Room, such as vector, raster including satellite imagery. WESR can also include graphs

Output 4 New developments including the capacity to serve data with SDI technologies, including the capacity to serve MapX geospatial layers through standards such as Web Map Service (WMS).

Output 5 An up-to-date World Environment Situation Room platform

Travel
Missions and costs of travel envisaged

The JPO will undertake an estimated 1-2 missions per year of assignment. These include:

- Missions to undertake or provide training on the World Environment Situation Room technologies
- Outreach activities relating to the World Environment Situation Room

Travel costs are covered by project funds.

Training and Learning Elements
Training
The JPO will be offered the opportunity to undertake the following training courses:

- Results-based management training and career development planning: the JPO will be offered opportunities to participate in UNEP's results-based management training and undertake relevant training programmes organized by the UN system
- UNEP's online training programmes: the JPO will be provided the opportunity to undertake a variety of programmes provided by UNEP including Gender Mainstreaming, Social Safeguards, Environment and Resource Efficiency.
- Coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training: the supervisors of the JPO are committed to providing daily on the job training for the JPO's effective operation in the UN system.
- Specialized training will be agreed in consultation with the supervisor.

Learning elements:
After one year, the JPO

- is familiar with the World Environment Situation Room.
- can apply knowledge of the UN system and the role of UN Environment Programme within the UN system, and understands UN Environment Programme's programmatic and operational structures and related rules and regulations
- gained experience with planning and organizing training on the World Environment Situation Room
- gathered intelligence on possible themes of expansion of the World Environment Situation Room

After two years, the JPO

- has strengthened the expertise and skills acquired in Year One.
- appreciates challenges and opportunities for the implementation of UN Environment Programme's work related to the World Environment Situation Room
- can deliver training at country and regional level on the World Environment Situation Room

After three years, the JPO
- can work independently on project components
- can apply the skills gained to plan future career development in international environment affairs, assessment and/or statistics either in government agencies international agencies, the UN, non-governmental organizations, research institutes or the private sector.
- Can develop project proposals

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications: A first-level university degree in in Computer Science or Information Technology; An advanced university degree is advantageous.

Skills: Proficiency in software application and database analysis, design, and development skills, in particular proficiency in PHP, JavaScript, JQuery, CSS, HTML, SQL and MySQL and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations within multicultural working environment

Working experience: At least 5 years' experience in software development. Experience in GIS technologies is required.

Language(s) proficiency required: Fluency in English is essential. Knowledge of French is desirable. Working knowledge of other UN languages is an asset.

Competencies

Professionalism: demonstrated expertise in area of specialty and ability to apply good judgment; high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures in a politically sensitive environment, while exercising discretion, impartiality and neutrality; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented.

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.

Technological awareness: Keeps abreast of available technology; understands applicability and limitation of technology to the work of the office; actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks; shows willingness to learn new technology.

Living conditions at duty station

Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa