

UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title: Junior Professional Officer - Geospatial Intelligence for Sustainable Development and Humanity.

Branch: Early Warning and Data Analytics Branch, Early Warning and Assessment Division

Location: Nairobi

Duration: 2 years

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Branch

The United Nations Environment 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 (UN) system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

The Early Warning and Assessment Division provides timely, scientifically credible, policy-relevant environmental analyses, data and information for decision-making and action planning for sustainable development. It monitors, analyses and reports on the state of the global environment, assesses global and regional environmental trends and provides early warning of emerging environmental threats. The Early Warning Branch within the Division of Early Warning and Assessment is a cohesive and overarching Branch consisting of five units, which include the Climate Early Warning Services, Global Environmental Monitoring Systems (GEMS) and Early Warning for Environment, SDGs and Environment Statistics, Early Warning Briefs and System Analysis, and Global Resources Information Database Centers (GRIDs) Network.

Early Warning and Data Analytics including Geospatial technologies, earth observation systems of systems, applications, and services, are key enablers to accelerate the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework, and to fight the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The Junior Professional Officer will work in the Early Warning and Data Analytics Branch to develop and manage a portfolio of geospatial intelligence projects and develop an One UN Geospatial Early Warning and Analytics Strategy, also support the UN-wide early warning on the environment strategy and action plan for the triple planetary crisis through the multi-stakeholder partnership engaging the private sector and civil society, inclusively at sub-national, local, and community levels,

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

Science is arguably the only basis on which we can ground and seek solutions to key environmental challenges and avoid or minimize new environmental risks that may arise from the advancement of science and technology.

One of the key roles of UN Environment in the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to support countries in monitoring, reporting and science-informed planning and decision making. Furthermore, the Paris Agreement Sub-paragraph 7(c) calls for “*strengthening scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observation of the climate system and early warning systems, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making*”.

UN Environment’s Early Warning and Assessment Division has a growing geospatial intelligence driven portfolio of projects to support global, national, and local level in strengthening environmental geospatial information for multiple purposes and holistic early warning systems against triple planetary crisis. The JPO position is critically needed to support the development and management of a pipeline of projects from government, private and public sector. JPO will therefore make an important contribution towards addressing capacity building and resources mobilization needs.

Supervision

The JPO will work under the direct supervision of:

Title supervisor: Chief of Branch

Branch supervisor: Early Warning and Data Analytics Branch

Location supervisor: Nairobi, Kenya

The JPO and Supervisors will use Inspira, the UN Secretariat platform for online ePerformance, to structure the timing and methodology of feedback and tracking of performance. The performance evaluations will be made available to the donor Government.

Content and methodology of the supervision

- The First Reporting Officer in Nairobi will introduce the Junior Professional Officer to the role and activities of UN Environment in the field of assessments.
- The Junior Programme Officer will be given assessment reports and other background materials to familiarize himself / herself with the activities in the area.
- The First Reporting Officer - will introduce the Global Environment Outlook methodology and process to the Junior Professional Officer and will discuss the terms of reference to make sure that the incumbent can prepare a workplan for the Performance Appraisal System (e-PAS) - including the setting of learning and training objectives for career development.
- The supervisor will have regular meetings with the incumbent giving guidance for problem solving and assistance in identifying experience opportunities.
- The work plan will be reviewed after the first six months. The Junior Programme Officer will be expected to carry out assignments more independently after the review.

- There will be an annual Performance Appraisal for the Junior Programme Officer. This will be first done by the first appraising officer, i.e. the direct supervisor and then by the second appraising officer – and shared with the donor.

First appraising officer: Mr. Alexandre Caldas
 Title first appraising officer: Chief, Early Warning and Data Analytics Branch
 Unit first appraising officer: Early Warning and Assessment Division
 Location first appraising: Nairobi, Kenya

Second appraising officer: Mr. Jian Liu
 Title second appraising officer: Director, Early Warning and Assessment Division
 Unit second appraising officer: Early Warning and Assessment Division
 Location second appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

- Draft project concepts, proposals and related documents, including One UN Geospatial Early Warning and Analytics Strategy and Advanced geospatial integration strategy.
- Draft concept note and strategy for One Map, and One Planet Early Warning Platform.
- Compile and synthesize progress reports on existing projects and use this information for highlighting the results of the portfolio.
- Research donor priorities and make recommendations on resource mobilization approaches.
- Monitor project pipeline progress in the Early Warning and Assessment Division and generate periodic reports.

Output expectations

- New project proposals and documents prepared to support regions, countries and local communities in geospatial intelligence information management and use for planning and decision-making, as well as early warning systems.
- Well-managed geospatial intelligence related project portfolio within the Early Warning and Assessment Division in support of countries, regions and local communities.

Travel

As required by the Early Warning and Assessment Division the JPO will undertake an estimated 2-3 missions per year to project countries and/or support the planning and conducting of workshops/training related to the work of the Division.

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 UN Environment's results-based management training and undertake relevant training programmes organized by the UN system in Nairobi.
- UN Environment'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.
- 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 in consultation with the supervisor.

Learning elements:

After one year, the JPO is expected to be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the UN system and the role of UN Environment within the UN system.
- Understand UN Environment's programmatic and operational structures and related rules and regulations.
- Draft and assess project proposals, draft project budgets according to UN standards.
- Be familiar with UN Environment's engagement in the regions and at country level in the context of UN reform.
- Experience with planning and organizing meetings and workshops.
- Analyze and draft reports, technical papers and background documents.

After two years, the JPO is expected to be able to:

- Strengthen expertise and skills acquired in Year One.
- Apply knowledge on priorities of geospatial intelligence strategy and other key donors to project development within the Early Warning and Assessment Division.
- Understand and apply knowledge of region, country and local community needs related to geospatial intelligence information management.
- Support project management of a diverse project portfolio covering several regions and countries through direct engagement of the JPO with implementing partners.
- Appreciate the dynamics of intergovernmental processes and UN engagement in the regions and the approaches needed to engage with partners and support to meet needs of Member States related to geospatial information.
- Apply 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.

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

- Strengthen expertise and skills acquired in Year One and Two.
- Manage small and medium-sized projects under supervision.

- Support negotiations with donors through presentations etc.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) with a focus on environment, urban planning, GIS and/or sustainable development, or a first degree with a relevant combination of professional and academic qualifications.

Skills: Fluency in oral and written English is essential, with good writing and presentation skills. Knowledge of French is an advantage. Excellent ICT skills are needed.

Working experience: At least 3 years' experience at the national level, or 1 year at the international level, in fields associated with the post. Experience in work related to project development, geospatial information, early warning systems or environmental information management sustainable development, loss and damage, disaster and risk management would be an advantage.

Competencies

Professionalism: Ability to identify issues, analyze and participate in the resolution of problems. Ability to write project documents for donor funding. Ability to conduct data collection using various methods. Conceptual analytical and evaluative skills to conduct independent research and analysis, including familiarity with and experience in the use of various research sources, including electronic sources on the internet, intranet and other databases. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations. Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

Teamwork: Works collaboratively with colleagues in a multi-cultural environment 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 & 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

For Nairobi: Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa.