

UNEP JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

“Enabling novel Integrated Water Continuum Management”

General Information

Post Title: Associate Programme Officer / Junior Professional Officer
Unit: Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit, Marine and Freshwater Branch, Ecosystems Division
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Duration: 3 years

Background information on UN Environment and the 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 JPO will work on a novel ‘Water Continuum’-approach to support comprehensive conservation, restoration and sustainable use of freshwater, coastal and marine biodiversity and natural resources. The initiative is anchored within the Marine and Freshwater Branch, Ecosystems Division. This topic has been selected as a priority thematic focus for the Division in its MTS 2022-2025 readiness process.

Rationale: By 2050, the planet will need to provide food, health, jobs and energy to sustain a population of 9 billion people. Realizing the full potential of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems services and sustainable blue economies to contribute to these objectives will require widespread changes in how we manage our economic activity in and around coastal watersheds and marine areas. This need for change is especially clear as the impacts of over-exploitation, pollution, coastal development and climate change on oceans and coasts become increasingly visible.

UNEP is therefore evolving a novel integrated ‘**water continuum**’ **governance approach** to address the triple-planetary crises of climate change, nature loss and pollution across the land-sea interface. It connects governance systems, planning and management actions across policy areas and thematic disciplines in a concerted push to tackle complex economic, social and climate drivers that deteriorate the water cycle. This new approach will also enable countries in deploying and upscaling nature-based solutions to deliver the Global Biodiversity Framework; UNEA5 Resolution no 5 on Nature-based Solutions; and key Sustainable Development Goals including healthy freshwater and oceans (SDG 6 & 14), poverty reduction (SDG 1), food-Security (SDG 2),

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sustainable consumption & production (SDG 12), climate resilience and adaptation (SDG 13).

Working with countries, across the UN system, NGO's, high-ranking research institutions and think-tanks, the initiative will develop and pilot an integrated environment and water resource management framework that will steer policy coherence, investments and management action sustaining water ecosystems and their multiple benefits to people. This system approach will also support the *UN Common Approach for Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions*, enhancing governance, transparency and accountability in halting and reversing the loss of nature.

The JPO will join an interdisciplinary team working across UNEP divisions, sub-programmes, national and regional policy-makers and practitioners, and environmental, social and economic experts from partner organizations, which will develop the overall *Water Continuum Framework* and help build the essential enabling conditions to implement integrated water continuum policies and management strategies at the national, regional and global level.

Thereby, the proposed function provides a rich and forward-thinking learning opportunity for a JPO, with exposure to a suite of innovative and job-relevant topics.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

UNEP's novel work on integrated water continuum management for sustainable blue economy is evolving quickly and has scope to effectively re-shape the way we resolve water issues. Currently, UNEP has only few internal staff working on this topic. To respond to an increased demand from countries for support to integrated water management and sustainable blue economies, there is a clear need to increase the human capacity in the unit/program.

The proposed JPO position is suggested for a duration of 3 years.

Supervision

Overall Supervision: Ms. Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma

Title supervisor: Chief, Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Unit (P5)

Unit of supervisor: Marine and Freshwater Branch, Ecosystems Division

Direct supervision: Mr. Ole Vestergaard

Title supervisor: Programme Management Officer (P4)

Unit of supervisor: Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Unit, Ecosystems Division

Location supervisor: Nairobi

Address, telephone, fax, e-mail and signature of supervisor:

P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254-20-762 4729

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Email: sinikinesh.jimma@un.org ; ole.vestergaard@un.org

Content and methodology of the supervision

The JPO will work on the Integrated Water Continuum approach and related programmes/projects, such like UNEP Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative. Close supervision and technical and strategic guidance will be provided. The Personnel Appraisal System will set and monitor measurable targets and project implementation goals. Weekly meetings would address assessment of short-term accomplishments, and review of problems, while quarterly meetings would focus on discussions on job-satisfaction; discussion of development plan and learning objectives (see training and learning elements),

General objectives, desired results and anticipated problems are discussed beforehand with the incumbent. Regular feedback on the progress of activities is obtained by the supervisor through review of work in process. The incumbent is expected to carry out the duties under general supervision and to consult with the supervisor on issues of policy or other sensitive matters. Final results of each set of activities, is reviewed for attainment of objectives and quality of work.

First appraising officer: Mr. Ole Vestergaard

Title first appraising officer: Programme Management Officer

Unit first appraising officer: Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit

Location first appraising officer: Nairobi

Second appraising officer: Ms. Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma

Branch second appraising officer: Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch

Location second appraising officer: Nairobi

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference / Main responsibilities:

The JPO will be responsible of the following activities:

- 1) Supporting the delivery and communication of UNEP's novel 'Integrated Water Continuum' approach, the associated sustainable blue economy initiative and the Global Biodiversity Framework early implementation action.
- 2) Co-facilitate engagement with the UN Decade on Ocean Science to innovate the Integrated Water Continuum approach.
- 3) Support countries in the development of national and regional action plans on integrated water continuum management.
- 4) Assisting in organizing regional/national capacity building integrated water continuum approach and associated sustainable blue economy strategies.

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- 5) Supporting the expansion of and creation of partnerships to support UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and early-action for implementation of Global Biodiversity Framework.

Output expectations

- 1) Successful development and pilot application of UNEPs Integrated Water Continuum approach.
- 2) Effective support to countries in the development of their national and regional action plans on integrated water continuum management.
- 3) Successful creation of partnerships to strengthen the integrated water continuum initiative.
- 4) Successfully support the increased use of integrated water approaches for the work on sustainable oceans and coasts, supporting early and impactful action to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework and related Sustainable Development Goals.

Travel

The JPO will travel to technical meetings, conferences, project field visits and UN policy fora supporting Integrated Water Continuum management knowledge generation and innovative solutions for sustainable freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. Other travels related to the implementation of the programme will most likely happen based on the demand and need.

Training and Learning Elements

Training will be an important part of the JPO assignment, and the JPO will be requested to take periodical training related to the content of the work as well as general UN training.

Learning elements:

After the JPO assignment working on integrated water continuum management and sustainable blue economy: write assessment reports, assess project proposals, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate job-descriptions and project documents, monitor progress in solving problems, formulate remedial action proposals and implement resolutions. Assess and write project documents as well as proposals for sustainable blue economy relevant fund raising, plan and implement meetings, improved negotiation, organizational and evaluating skills, advance skills in monitoring and assessment related to integrated water continuum management, biodiversity protection and sustainable blue economy.

The proposed focus of the JPO will provide a forward-looking learning opportunity, with exposure to a suite of innovative and job-relevant topics.

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Qualifications and experience

Qualifications: Advanced university degree in ecology, environmental economics, political science and/or other science, natural resources, environmental economics, public policy or other relevant discipline.

Skills: Some experience in the UN system or other complex systems (like EC), good drafting skills, Fluency in English is essential, Experience in drafting proposals, Experience in stakeholder engagement and communication is needed, Advanced IT skills are desirable. Ability for creative thinking and new ideas is essential.

Working experience: Minimum of 3-5 years of professional experience with minimum of 2 years of experience of working in the UN system

Competencies

The candidate should have:

- 1) **Good communication skills:** speaks and writes clearly and effectively in English
- 2) **Teamwork:** able to work in collaboration with colleagues from different backgrounds and with different nationalities; solicits guidance where appropriate from his/her supervisor
- 3) **Creativity:** Not bound by current thinking or traditional approaches and seeks to consider new ideas and approaches to problem solving
- 4) **Continuous learning:** Keeps abreast of new developments in own occupation/profession. Actively seeks to develop oneself professionally and personally.

Living conditions at duty stations

For Nairobi: Nairobi is classified by the UN as a "B" hardship duty station, entitling UN staff to biannual home leave. Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa.

12 February 2023
Nairobi