

UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title Junior Water Resources Officer
Division Ecosystems Division
Unit Freshwater Ecosystems Unit
Location Nairobi, Kenya
Duration 2-3 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 UNEP Medium-Term Strategy aims at addressing the climate, nature, and pollution crises our planet is facing. Freshwater ecosystems and improving management of freshwater resources plays a pivotal role and forms part of the solution, giving rise to the backbone of UNEP's Global Freshwater Strategic Priorities 2022-2025 in implementation of its MTS. Furthermore the 2030 Agenda provides a unique and strong global policy framework as a foundation to address freshwater issues over the coming years. UNEP's global mandate and comparative advantage make it well placed and prepared to support countries to implement the water-related SDG targets, with an official role as the custodian agency responsible for global monitoring and reporting of SDG targets relating to protecting and restoring freshwater ecosystems (SDG target 6.6), addressing ambient water quality of water bodies (SDG target 6.3) and implementing Integrated Water Resources Management, or IWRM (SDG target 6.5).

Priorities would be experience and demonstrated interested in ecosystems management and knowledge of water issues linked to other UNEP priority areas of climate, food, nature and/or pollution. This work is increasingly expected to support international diplomacy and transboundary cooperation, poverty and peacebuilding or conflict prevention.

Other strategic activities that the JPO may contribute to includes developing local implementation projects on preventing source-to-sea pollution, linking water and food security, highlighting natural and green-grey water management and water storage methods, advancing IWRM for climate adaptation, and engaging cities and communities to protect and restore ecosystems health and nature, in order to advance global goals. Engagement and support to a variety of existing partnerships such as ICLEI, C40, Global Peatlands Initiative, the Freshwater Challenge, Rotary International, and the World Food Programme, and others. Technical support, substantive contributions to programmes, policies and plans will be an important aspect of the work. Exposure to work on advocacy,

awareness-raising and communications and related outreach activities will also be included.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

The Junior Water Resources Officer (JPO) will be placed in the Freshwater Ecosystems Unit and will primarily support the unit to address emerging and growing topics, develop and implement ecosystem-based projects helping to implement the UNEP Freshwater Strategy 2022 – 2025. Support the development of the new UNEP Freshwater Strategy 2025 – 2028 in line with the new Medium-Term Strategy of UNEP and meet the growing demands on the unit expected to come out of UNEA 6 and the run-up to the UN 2026 Water Conference.

This work will also provide an excellent learning opportunity for the JPO, which will serve her/him well in a future career. The knowledge and experience gathered from UNEP's work on freshwater and marine interlinkages and associated policy implementation, capacity building and replication, is foreseen to be highly relevant and valuable for the candidate's home country/organization upon completion of the JPO assignment.

Supervision

Direct supervision by Programme Management Officer (P4), Freshwater Ecosystems Unit

Content and methodology of the supervision

The Supervisor has more than 20 years' experience as a manager and supervisor of which 10 years in the UN system:

1. The JPO will be introduced to personnel within the Nairobi-based staff of the Branch, as well as other relevant Units and branches worldwide.
2. The JPO will be invited to participate in relevant upcoming regional/international water-related events.
3. The supervisor will outline the scope and focus of the work and immediate priorities. The terms of reference and work plan of the JPO will be entered into the e-performance system including the setting of learning and training objectives for his or her career development.
4. The supervisor and JPO will jointly agree on development objectives, goals and actions for the coming year. The supervisor will endeavour to support the JPO with training and possible travel opportunities to undertake tasks and to build professional skills and network.
5. The supervisor will have weekly meetings with the incumbent giving guidance for problem-solving and assistance in identifying experience opportunities.
6. The work plan will be reviewed after the first six months. At the same time, the supervisor will make a performance evaluation and share this with the donor. The

- JPO will be expected to carry out assignments more independently after this first review.
7. There will be mid-term review and an annual e-performance evaluation for the JPO. This will be first carried out by the First Reporting Officer (FRO), i.e. the direct supervisor, and then by the Second Reporting Officer (SRO).

First appraising officer: Ms Elisabeth Mullin Bernhardt
Title first appraising officer: Programme Management Officer
Unit first appraising officer: Freshwater Ecosystems Unit
Location first appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Second appraising officer: Ms. Dianna Kopansky
Title second appraising officer: Chief
Unit second appraising officer: Freshwater Ecosystems Unit
Location second appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

- Contribute to the development and implementation of projects in line with the UNEPs Freshwater Strategy 2022 – 2025, water-related UNEA Resolutions and the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference and UNEA 6 including links to climate, food, biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and pollution.
- Contribute to action orientated global initiatives, including advancing SDG targets on IWRM, water quality and freshwater ecosystems linked to global biodiversity and climate commitments; UNEA resolutions; NBS and the Community Action for Freshwater Initiative
- Assist in the development and maintenance of partnerships to support freshwater aspects of international diplomacy and transboundary cooperation, poverty and conflict prevention
- Help in the planning, delivering and supporting of national and regional training workshops, south-south-north learning exchanges, webinars, tutorials, and other events (virtual and in-person).
- Assist in developing and rolling out advocacy, awareness-raising, knowledge management and outreach activities.
- Assist in researching and drafting of sessions, webinars, presentations and funding proposals.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Output expectations

- Case studies, strategic notes, articles and inputs to publications as needed, including for flagship reports of UNEP such as the Adaptation Gap Report.
- Well prepared and delivered webinars and presentations
- New and/or strengthened partnerships on monitoring and modelling explored and further developed.

- Local implementation projects identified and implemented, for example linking global, city and community action for rivers and wetlands.

Travel

Missions and travel will be demand based and funded from the programme. During the first year, the Junior Professional Officer can be expected to go on 3 missions. Other travels related to the implementation of the programme are most likely to happen based on the demand and need.

Missions and travel during the first year of assignment

0-1 international trips of up to one week each. These could include Stockholm World Water Week, COPs and the World Water Forum, or regional / local training workshops.

Missions and travel envisaged during the second year of assignment

1-2 international trips of up to one week each. These could include Stockholm World Water Week, COPs or regional / local training workshops.

Missions and travel envisaged during the third year of assignment (if applicable)

1-2 international trips of up to one week each. These could include Stockholm World Water Week, COPs or regional / local training workshops.

Training and Learning Elements

1. The JPO will obtain in-house training in monitoring methodologies, project development, programme management and report writing.
2. The JPO will be offered language training at UN Compound for any UN language.
3. The JPO will also be supported to make use of the available training budget including participation at major water conferences which provide opportunity for learning and networking.

Learning elements:

After one year: The JPO is able to grasp basics of setting up a project and reporting in the UN's online systems, prepare and disseminate technical materials. Understanding of the multi-cultural work environment of the UN system and how this impinges in project design and implementation.

After two years: The JPO has expertise in the preparation of project proposals, project management, project monitoring and reporting, preparation of self-evaluation sheets and terminal reports. Familiarity with working with country stakeholders and organizing and participating in steering group meetings and workshops.

After three years: The JPO is familiar with the drafting of policies, guidelines, methods, and procedures for carrying out major source-to-sea projects as well as local action projects; reviewing draft documents; recommending appropriate follow-up activities and opportunities for dissemination.

Qualifications and experience

Language proficiency required: Fluency in written and spoken English is essential, with ability to communicate in a concise, clear, and compelling way. Working knowledge of French or Spanish is desired. Working knowledge of another UN language including Chinese, Arabic and/or Russian is an asset.

Working experience

At least four years of national, or two years of international, experience and demonstrated interest at the international level water linked to climate, food, biodiversity, ecosystems and/or pollution. Interest in transboundary cooperation, poverty and conflict prevention is an asset.

Education: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environment, sustainable development, natural resources management or another water-related field. A first-level university degree in combination with four years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree. Implementation of environmentally related programmes, project or activities is required.

Competencies

Teamwork

Professionalism

Technological Awareness

Living conditions at duty station

Standard conditions apply. For the Nairobi duty station, these are the normal living conditions for developing country in Africa.