

## **UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST**

### **General Information**

Post Title: JPO, Associate Programme Officer – Climate Finance

Office/Division/MEA: UNEP Adaptation and Resilience Branch, Climate Division

Unit: Adaptation Unit

Location: Nairobi

Duration: 2 years with additional years as desired.

### **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. UNEP works to encourage decision makers in government, local authorities and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices and technologies that promote efficient use of natural resources, circularity in different economy sectors and in cities, climate adaptation and mitigation, sustainable patterns of consumption and production. UNEP also promotes the development, use and transfer of policies, technologies, economic instruments, managerial practices and other tools that assist in environmentally sound decision making and the building of corresponding activities.

UNEP's new MTS (2022-2025), sets out a vision for UNEP's role in delivering the promises of the 2030 Agenda and the promises made to Member States through the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and its outcome document, ["The Future We Want,"](#) by focusing on the three environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

UNEP promotes increased knowledge, investment and action in climate change adaptation, with a focus on incorporating ecosystem based approaches, through three main areas of work: i) catalyzing country level action by accessing international finance for adaptation on behalf of developing country governments and supporting governments to execute Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) projects, ii) distilling evidence for normative policy and programming guidance to catalyze more action on climate change adaptation, and iii) by strengthening networks and dialogue processes between people and groups engaged in adaptation, in particular on EbA. In so doing, UNEP promotes actions to improve the scientific basis of policy and planning processes particularly in relation to finding solutions to adaptation through the natural environment.

This JPO role is located in the Climate Change Adaptation Unit (CCAU) of the Climate Change Division at the Nairobi headquarters duty station. The CCAU aims to enhance capacity building, technology, and finance in support of the Paris Agreement to accelerate adaptation efforts to close the financing and implementation gap on adaptation, aligned to outcomes of the MTS and Global Goal on Adaptation. Building on UNEP's mandates, experience, and strength, CCAU seeks to build stronger partnership within governments, the UN, with technical agencies, civil society, with universities and with the private sector to invest in adaptation. The CCAU provides technical experience, networks, and outreach, which will contribute substantially to the cost-effectiveness of the programme approach through extensive dissemination and up-scaling of Programme results and outcomes. In addition, the

UNEP the Climate Finance Unit proactively works with banks, investors, businesses and governments to unlock and (re)direct public and private capital towards sustainable land use, including deforestation-free soft commodity production, with a view to advance climate mitigation, climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation/restoration.

The Climate Change Adaptation Unit is supporting over 50 developing countries with more than USD500 million of grant finance on climate change adaptation. In addition, UNEP is providing support to 30 countries on national adaptation planning processes. These projects develop innovative solutions for national governments and local communities to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change in an environmentally sound manner by investing in the protection and restoration of ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change and also vital for increasing human resilience to climate change impacts.

For information on UNEP's work on adaptation, please find here:

[Why does adaptation and resilience matter? | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

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

We are in a crisis and UNEP needs internal resources to help push it's Medium Term Strategy and to reach its targets on climate action. GHG emissions reached new high in 2022, up 1.2% over previous year. And 2023 has been declared the warmest year on record, spelling misery on vulnerable communities. Under current emissions trends, the models are suggesting a 2.9C hike in global temperatures, significantly above the Paris Agreement ambition to limit to 1.5C. To limit global warming to 1.5C would need a 45% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

The Adaptation Gap Report [2023](#) and the Emissions Gap Report [2023](#) both show we are wildly off track when it comes to adapting to the effects of the climate crisis and reducing emissions. The [Adaptation Gap Report](#) 2023 highlighted the fact that progress on climate adaptation finance is far outstripped by needs and that financial flows for adaptation need to increase significantly to meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable communities. The Adaptation finance gap is estimated at US\$194-366 billion per year, increasing to US\$387 billion per year by 2030.

The Glasgow decision urged developed countries to collectively double adaptation funding from 2019 levels by 2025: this means reaching US\$ 40 billion in 2025. We are nowhere near this level and neither is it enough: the adaptation finance gap would fall by only 5 to 10%. To reach the goals of the Paris Agreement we must leverage large-scale private climate finance and phase out the subsidies and accounting methods that encourage negative trends. Closing the adaptation financing gap will need integrated approaches in three ways: sharing of risk and finance between public and private sectors, designing solutions that deliver mitigation as well as adaptation objectives, and harmonizing policies and investments across sectors. The Paris Agreement commits governments to ensuring that all financing – public and private – becomes consistent over time with the long-term objectives of Paris.

There have been numerous high-level calls to better harness the conservation, restoration and management of ecosystems for delivering climate adaptation, and to significantly scale up financial support for nature-based solutions. And yet, international public finance for ecosystem-based adaptation is rising too slowly, making up less than 2 per cent of total

climate finance flows. Nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration have the power to help countries withstand the impacts of climate change, while contributing to multiple SDGs simultaneously. Research shows that nature-based solutions can provide up to 37 per cent of global cost-effective solutions to meet the targets under the Paris Climate Agreement spanning reduced deforestation and forest degradation. To meet our global climate, biodiversity and land degradation targets, nature-based solution investments will have to triple over the next ten years. At COP 28 discussions on a New Collective Quantified Goal on Finance were inconclusive, despite multiple reports demonstrating financial gaps for climate in general and for adaptation in particular.

UNEP needs to join others in promoting a massive increase in adaptation finance for adaptation. The JPO role is important in bolstering our analytical capability, our coordination with other entities and our communication and advocacy work, as well as expanding our programme reach. This will help multiplying adaptation investments through improved messaging, evidence base for policies and advance partnerships/networks on action at the global, national, and sub-national level.

The JPO's work will directly contribute to the Climate Action sub-programme and the following Programme of Work indicators:

1. Number of national, subnational and private sector actors that adopt climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies with UNEP support
2. Amounts provided and mobilized in \$ per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025 with UNEP support

### **Supervision**

The Associate Programme Officer will be working under the direct supervision of Jessica Troni, Chief Climate Change Adaptation Unit, Climate Division. The JPO will be an integral team member of the CCAU and will work closely with Unit colleagues in Nairobi and in outposted regional and country offices.

#### **First reporting officer:**

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#### **Second reporting officer:**

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

The JPO will be a member of the Climate Change Adaptation Unit based in Adaptation and Resilience Branch of the Climate Change Division. The CCAU comprises of a core team of fifteen staff based in Nairobi, with additional outposted programme officers in UNEP offices in Panama City and Bangkok.

The JPO will be assigned annual individual workplan objectives and targets and that are part of the Unit's annual workplan and budget fully. The workplan objectives and targets will

feature in the JPO E-performance system that is part of UN's INSPIRA information management system. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reporting Officers will conduct regular performance discussions (minimum 6 monthly) to assess progress, make amendments where necessary and recommendations for further staff development and/or responsibilities. This is a two-way process and aims to support and motivate staff performance as the E-performance system includes the setting of personal development objectives and targets. The supervision arrangements are also supplemented by regular work meetings and discussions on specific workplan objectives and targets.

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

#### *Terms of reference*

The main tasks foreseen are as follows:

1. Lead UNEP's engagement with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA) to:
  - support mainstreaming of nature-based approaches in adaptation through increased awareness of UNEP's mandate, resources and tools.
  - Identify workstreams that UNEP could develop in support of the CFMCA and associated funding proposal and partners;
  - Liaise with different Units and Divisions in UNEP to develop UNEP's offer in support of the CFMCA;
  - Programme manage eventual projects that are approved for funding;
2. Advance understanding of financing partners and current and desired private sector de-risking strategies with which to advance adaptation through targeted policy research pieces:
  - Carry out a scoping exercise and develop a compendium of financing partners and financing models for application to grant-based adaptation proposals that UNEP is developing. The analysis should consider existing partnerships and de-risking facilities (e.g. RSCF, AGRI3, DFCD, others), to see how these and others can be applied and further harnessed to advance private sector engagement and investment for climate adaptation, including in funding proposal and national action plans.
  - A decision framework for helping programme officers quickly identify potential partners should be developed;
  - The limits and gaps in risk appetite should be identified and a proposal for how public finance can address the risk and financing gaps should be developed.
  - Implications for reductions in loss and damage through scaled up de-risking instruments;
  - A UNEP briefing note synthesising the research and policy messages;
  - Contribute to internal webinars to present the findings;
  - Develop influencing strategy to promote donor government instrument design based on the analysis undertaken.
3. Strengthen private sector financing dimension in adaptation projects:
  - Identify partners in that location and secure their engagement;
  - Project manage targeted pieces of feasibility work;

- Draft sections of the Funding Proposal, clearly outlining how private finance can be leveraged to improve resilience and climate adaptation in (vulnerable) developing countries.
4. Contributes to UNFCCC submissions, UNEP briefing notes, corporate reporting;
  5. Performs other duties as required.

#### *Output expectations*

The output expectations from the JPO by the end of their assignment will include:

1. Terms of Reference for climate finance workstreams developed and associated funding proposals developed;
2. One approved funding proposal on climate finance;
3. A scoping study and decision framework for integration of private sector financing in adaptation;
4. A UNEP briefing note synthesising the research and policy messages;
5. Proposal for private de-risking approaches and influencing strategy for donor governments;
6. An assessment of the potential loss and damage reduction through scaled up de-risking efforts;
7. Three adaptation proposals strengthened through integration of private sector partners in the implementation structure;
8. Project management of two pieces of targeted feasibility work related to private sector financing of adaptation objectives;
9. Contributions to five policy briefings per year and 2 corporate reports per year.

#### **Travel**

It is expected that the JPO will be required to travel during the period of his/her placement. For instance, to participate in international meetings to both present UNEP's work and gather feedback and to learn from others.

#### **Training and Learning Elements**

The workplan is intended to provide training and learning in respect of:

- Task 1: Partnership building, analytical capability and programming experience.  
 Task 2: Analytical capability, programme management; normative guidance development, partnership building.  
 Task 3: Programming experience, programme management and partnership building.  
 Task 4: Organisational awareness.

The JPO will benefit from on-the-job training as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Unit and the wider engagement with the Adaptation and Resilience Branch in the Climate Change Division in Nairobi for a wide range of tasks ranging from strategic programme design; communication; relationship building, reporting and programme management. The JPO will

be supported and mentored by the Chief of the Adaptation Unit. A second reporting line is with the programme management officer of the Climate Finance Unit.

The E-Performance process of UNEP requires professional development annual objectives and targets that aim to strengthen the capacity of staff to undertake their assignments. The JPO will be encouraged to strengthen their capacity through participation in online short climate change adaptation training courses and making use of UN training resources.

The UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) provides language training in all official UN-languages plus Kiswahili as well as trainings in competency-based interviewing skills, results-based management, and project management among others. These trainings will be open to the JPO. However, participation on a course cannot be guaranteed as limited places are available.

The supervisor and JPO will discuss and agree on specific professional development plan, training needs and opportunities (for example in relation to project development and management).

Learning elements:

After one year the JPO is able to:

- Draft quality reports, policy briefs and strategic engagement documents and communication materials in climate-resilient food and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Understand the range of financing strategies and entities and how they might support UNEP's work and mandate;
- Understand, research, analyse and communicate best practices and lesson learned from UNEP's project portfolio and from engagement with regional and global networks on climate change adaptation and stakeholders.
- Establish working relationships with other UN agencies, donors and technical teams;
- Understand the administrative and accountability processes behind programme management;
- Understand the accountability processes behind the Programme of Work and MTS related reporting.
- Understand the programmatic challenges and opportunities for country-level adaptation planning and integration of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions into national development policy, planning, budgeting, financing, and monitoring processes.

After two years the JPO is able to:

- Work collaboratively with UN agencies and strategic alliances;
- Think strategically within the framework on UN organisations and prepare strategic planning documents;
- Engage in science-policy interface in adaptation policies, legislation and planning.
- Knowledge of professional networks important to adaptation and understand how to harness these processes in developing normative products;
- Have a thorough understanding of UN rules and regulations, including understanding and experience with UN's support to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement Global Goal on Adaptation, UNFCCC, UNCBD Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and their financing

opportunities (e.g., Addis Ababa Action Agenda), and the UN Delivering as One initiative.

- Coordinate the delivery of technical advice, including preparation of briefing notes, guidance notes and reports, in support of integrated approaches for adaptation planning focused on science-policy linkages including ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions.

## **Qualifications and experience**

### *Qualifications:*

- Post-graduate university degree in Climate Change, Environment Studies, Environmental Policy/Law, Natural Resources Management, or a related field. A first-level university degree in combination with two additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

### *Working Experience:*

- At least 2 years of professional work experience at the national and/or international level in climate change adaptation or other closely relevant programmes. Working experience with the UN or other international development organization would be an asset.
- Experience working on finance and economics related to environmental issues is desirable
- Experience in programme design and management in developing countries is desirable.

### *Languages:*

- English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (oral and written) is required.

## **Competencies**

- Professionalism: demonstrated understanding of operations relevant to United Nations Environment Programme; technical capabilities or knowledge relevant or transferrable to United Nations Environment Programme procedures and rules; discretion, political sensitivity, and tact to deal with clients; ability to apply good judgement; ability to liaise and coordinate with a range of different actors, especially in senior positions; where appropriate, high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; resourcefulness and willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented;
- Teamwork and respect for diversity: ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; excellent interpersonal skills; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, mixed-gender environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity; sensitivity and adaptability to culture, gender, religion, nationality and age; commitment to implementing the goal of gender equality by ensuring

the equal participation and full involvement of women and men in all aspects of UN operations; ability to achieve common goals and provide guidance or training to colleagues;

- Communication: proven interpersonal skills; good spoken and written communication skills, including ability to prepare clear and concise reports; ability to conduct presentations, articulate options and positions concisely; ability to make and defend recommendations; ability to communicate and empathize with staff (including national staff), military personnel, volunteers, counterparts and local interlocutors coming from very diverse backgrounds; capacity to transfer information and knowledge to a wide range of different target groups;
- Creativity: Actively seeks to improve programmes or services; offers new and different options to solve problems or meet client needs; promotes and persuades others to consider new ideas; takes calculated risks on new and unusual ideas; thinks "outside the box"; takes an interest in new ideas and new ways of doing things; is not bound by current thinking or traditional approaches.

### **Living conditions at duty station**

The UN classifies Nairobi as class B duty station, entitling UN staff to bi-annual home leave. Nairobi enjoys good living conditions for a developing country in Africa. Comprehensive security advice and support is provided upon arrival.