



UNOPS helps its partners in the United Nations system meet the world's needs for building peace, recovering from disaster, and creating sustainable development. UNOPS is known for its ability to implement complex projects in all types of environments around the globe. In an effort to promote organizational excellence, UNOPS seeks highly qualified individuals for the following position:

Vacancy Details

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| Vacancy Code | VA/2009/NAO/UN-REDD-11/RTA |
| Post Title | Regional Technical Advisor |
| Post Level | Fixed Term Appointment, P4 (ICS-11)* |
| Position status | Non-rotational |
| Org Unit | UNDP/BDP/EEG |
| Duty Station | Panama |
| Duration | One year initially (with possibility of extension based on performance) |
| Closing Date | 11 July 2009 |

Background

The UNDP Environment and Energy Group (EEG) is based in UNDP's Bureau of Development Policy. EEG is responsible for providing leadership and technical support for the delivery of the Environment and Sustainable Development pillar of UNDP's Strategic Plan. In particular, EEG assists UNDP Programme countries to develop the capacity to fully incorporate environmental management objectives into development at national and local levels, but also at global and regional scales, and thus ensure that development is sustainable. The principal areas of work are: environmental mainstreaming, environmental finance, adaptation to climate change, and local governance of natural resources. An Ecosystems and Natural Resources Team works to achieve sound ecosystem management through these means. EEG is organized into substantive technical teams led by a Principal or Senior Technical Advisor (PTA/ STA). PTAs/ STAs support and guide a team of Regional Technical Advisors (RTAs), who are also members of regional teams. The regional teams consist of RTAs assigned to different technical teams, who work together in regional service centres (RSCs) under the leadership of a Regional Practice Leader. The regional teams are responsible for supporting the work of UNDP's network of country offices and development partners in their regions.

The role of an RTA is to provide high quality technical guidance and support on matters pertaining to policy and project development and implementation to development partners, primarily UNDP country offices but also other UN agencies, governments and inter-governmental organizations, NGO's, donors, etc. The RTAs are also responsible for providing detailed knowledge related to different sources of funds for environment work, and assisting partners to obtain, use, sequence and report on such funding. Currently the main sources of funds include: the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its Adaptation Funds (LDCF, SCCF); the CDM carbon market; the UN REDD Programme and various bilateral, multilateral, and sub-national donors and partners including country governments, NGOs, and the private sector. EEG is in the process of expanding its capacities to assist countries access the voluntary carbon markets, the private sector, the UNFCCC Adaptation fund, and, if they become available, biocarbon funds.

The Ecosystem and Natural Resources Programme is subdivided into sub themes, including REDD

(reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation), biodiversity management, integrated land resource management, and integrated water resource management. The Regional Technical Advisor for REDD and Ecosystems & Natural Resources will be responsible for providing technical advice and overseeing the development and management of REDD initiatives and other ecosystem and natural resource management activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of a larger team. The incumbent will work under the overall guidance and supervision of the UNDP Senior Technical Advisor (REDD) (primary supervisor), the Senior Technical Advisor for Biodiversity and the Practice/Team Leader for the Latin America and Caribbean Office (secondary supervisors), and in close collaboration with other technical specialists at both global and regional levels. Depending on work load and resources Regional Technical Advisors can be periodically redeployed, in accordance with capability, consent, and due process, in any region as needed. This post will be based in Panama City, Panama.

REDD activities will be pursued under the umbrella of the UN-REDD Programme. The UN REDD Programme is a collaborative partnership between FAO, UNDP and UNEP. The objective is to support efforts to include incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation in a post-Kyoto regime by assisting a number of pilot countries establish national REDD strategies and frameworks. A UNDP-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been established for the UN-REDD Programme and Norway has committed funds for the initial phase. www.un-redd.net Support will be provided to pilot countries by way of Joint Programmes between FAO, UNDP and UNEP, under the Resident Coordinator. Three of the initial Pilot Countries are in Latin America, namely Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay.

Other Ecosystem and Natural resource management activities to be undertaken by the incumbent will focus on:

- Building capacity at country level to engineer integrated land and water resource management.
- Building capacity to mainstream ecosystem management objectives into production sector activities to ensure that production practices maintain essential ecosystem functions that sustain human welfare
- Building capacity in countries to unleash the economic potential of protected areas, so that they are better able to fulfill their management functions, are sustainably financed and contribute to sustainable development; and

Approximately 75% of the time of the incumbent will be devoted to work on the UN REDD programme, with 25% devoted to other ecosystem and natural resource management policy and project portfolio matters, including GEF-funded projects.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Regional Technical Advisor for REDD and Ecosystems and Natural Resources is primarily responsible for providing high quality technical policy, programming, implementation support and oversight, and knowledge and capacity development services, to UNDP country offices in the region. In addition, working closely with other RTAs working on REDD, the post will support UNDP's work across the region to design and implement the UN-REDD programme as well as contribute to other ecosystems and natural resources work in the arenas of protected areas management and mainstreaming. The post will require substantial interaction with UNDP's STA for REDD, UNDP's STA for biodiversity, regional colleagues in FAO and UNEP responsible for the UN-REDD Programme, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the UNDP Ecosystem and Natural Resources and Climate Change teams and other technical advisors. The position will require a combination of political and technical competence and national recognition of the expert to be able to work with the senior levels of government and private sector to promote ideas, secure partnerships and the adoption of policy recommendations.

Specific results are expected in the areas of:

1. Strategic Planning, Management, Innovation and Partnerships (15% of total time)¹

- Establishing and maintaining a strategic understanding of, and engagement with, the substantive technical issues, institutions, and processes within the region, including establishing contact with and developing strategic partnerships with other agencies, donors, NGO's, the private sector, scientific institutions and the like;

¹ Exact percentages are agreed annually with the supervisors based on each RC's individual work plan

- leading, or contributing to, the development and implementation of UNDP's global and regional strategies on environment and sustainable development;
- participating in global retreats, focal area retreats, regional strategic planning, pipeline management exercises, etc.;
- participating in cross-substantive area technical dialogue, common strategic visioning, mainstreaming, programming, and other collaboration within the regional team;
- keeping the Regional Team informed of trends and issues with respect to the substantive technical area;
- keeping the Principal Technical Advisor informed of trends and issues in the region;
- maintaining effective coordination and coherence between the work of the ENR and REDD teams within the region.

2. Policy Support, Development, Dialogue and Advocacy (5% of total time)

- Providing strategic policy development support and guidance regarding the development of REDD and other ecosystem and natural resource management strategies;
- developing strategic UNDP policy position papers and internal briefing notes;
- developing and advocating for specific policy analysis and development tools and guidance ; with particular regard to REDD and ecosystem and natural resource management;
- establishing a trusted leadership role within the region and;
- identifying, and sourcing technical expertise and support including assisting with the preparation of TORs, identification and evaluation of experts and reviewing reports.

3. Programming and Resource Mobilization (35% of total time)

- Programme and project identification and development for the UN-REDD Programme;
- Programme and project identification and development for other ecosystem and natural resource management initiatives;
- providing timely quality information and technical advice on source of funds policies, priorities and activities, working closely with other members of the UNDP Ecosystems and Natural Resources team;
- identifying priorities and entry-points for UNDP assistance;
- assisting with the coordination of design, preparation, submission and approval of project proposals and requests for project development financing with a focus in the natural resource sectors(biodiversity, sustainable land management etc);
- identification and sourcing of technical expertise and support including assisting with the preparation of TORs, identification and evaluation of experts and reviewing reports and;
- liaison with potential financing agencies and institutions.

4. Project Implementation Oversight and Support (30% of total time)

- Assisting with inception, contracting and start up of joint programmes and projects including establishment of indicators, benchmarks and work plans;
- supporting UNDP country offices in the supervision, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, troubleshooting and adaptive management of approved programmes and projects;
- maintaining project and portfolio information and corporate information systems and;
- reviewing and commenting on relevant projects and project proposals from other agencies.

5. Generating, managing and stimulating the uptake of knowledge (15% of total time)

- Evaluating, capturing, codifying, synthesizing lessons and stimulating the uptake of best practices and knowledge, including the development of resource kits and other knowledge materials;
- peer reviewing, commenting on, and seeking to improve, the technical quality of projects, policies, practices, guidelines, advisory notes, publications and the like;
- assisting with preparation of regional Community of Practice meetings;
- preparing and delivering training courses;
- responding to queries on project progress, impacts and lessons and;
- developing and carrying out a personal learning plan.

Impact of Results

The results of the work of the Regional Technical Advisor impact on the standing and reputation of UNDP in all the countries of the region. Overall, the decisions taken by the Regional Technical Advisor also impact upon: the relations and credibility of UNDP with joint programme partner agencies, government, civil society and donors; programme success or failure and; the efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocations within UNDP. The Regional Technical Advisor has regular contact with Country Offices and national counterparts in monitoring UNDP natural resources and ecosystem programmes and projects. In addition, for the UN-REDD Programme, the Regional Technical Advisor has regular contact with the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives of FAO and UNEP. The Regional Technical Advisor makes recommendations to the UNDP Resident Representative or Country Director on necessary courses of action in response to changes in the country context and new programme and resource mobilization opportunities. When requested, the Regional Technical Advisor represents UNDP in international and national fora, liaises with external clients and a broad range of constituencies and UNDP counterparts in the Government, local and international media, civil society as well as counterparts from other international organizations. The Regional Technical Advisor promotes good cooperation and coordination among programme and operations staff and between the Country Office and Government counterparts.

Required Selection Criteria

- **Technical Competencies**
- Ability to apply technical knowledge relating to GHG emissions reductions in forests, with a solid understanding of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the cost drivers of abatement actions, and the social fundamentals necessary for success;
- Ability to conceive, and support the implementation of innovative approaches to address the drivers of ecosystem degradation by reforming the production practices of economic sectors
- Ability to conceive, and support the implementation of innovative approaches to optimize the economic contributions of protected areas to countries in Southern and Eastern Africa;
- Ability to conceive environmentally and economically sustainable and cost effective solutions;
- ability to design and implement multi-sectoral and sectoral programmes and projects at different scales and;
- capacity to work with multiple stakeholders and across a wide range of disciplines.

- **Corporate Competencies:**
- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards;
- promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP;
- displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability and;
- treats all people fairly without favouritism.

- **Functional Competencies:**
- Development and Operational Effectiveness
- Ability to lead strategic planning, change processes, results-based management and reporting;
- ability to lead formulation, oversight of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development projects and;
- ability to apply development theory to the specific country context to identify creative, practical approaches to overcome challenging situations.
- Knowledge Management and Learning
- Promotes knowledge management in UNDP and a learning environment in the office through leadership and personal example;
- in-depth practical knowledge of inter-disciplinary development issues;
- actively works towards continuing personal learning and development in one or more Practice Areas, acts on learning plan and applies newly acquired skills and;
- seeks and applies knowledge, information, and best practices from within and outside of UNDP
- Management and Leadership
- Builds strong relationships with clients, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to

feedback;

- consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude;
- demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities;
- ability to lead effectively, mentoring as well as conflict resolution skills..
- demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills;
- remains calm, in control and good humored even under pressure and;
- proven networking, team-building, organizational and communication skills.
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| Educational/Experience/Language | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advanced University Degree preferably in natural resource management, development studies or geography. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of 7 years practical working experience in developing countries with environment issues, with knowledge of the Latin America & Caribbean region; ▪ extensive experience with project development, implementation and management (direct project management experience is preferable); ▪ experience in the policy development processes associated with forest carbon and sustainable development issues in the natural resource sectors; ▪ an understanding of the REDD agenda in the context of UNFCCC negotiations, the challenges and opportunities; ▪ Thorough understanding of the forest and biodiversity conservation issues/environment policies and governance systems in the countries of the region; ▪ demonstrated strategic technical and intellectual skills in substantive area; ▪ demonstrated ability to develop and maintain strategic partnerships; ▪ demonstrated leadership, facilitation and coordination skills; ▪ demonstrated entrepreneurial abilities and demonstrated ability to work in an independent manner; ▪ full computer literacy; ▪ working experience in an international organization is an advantage as is in-depth knowledge of UNDP policies, procedures and practices. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Language Requirements: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent knowledge of the English language, with exceptional writing, presentation and communication skills; ▪ Excellent knowledge of the Spanish language, with exceptional writing, presentation and communication skills; ▪ competency in other UN languages would be an asset. |

Submission of Applications

Qualified candidates may submit their application, including a letter of interest, complete Curriculum Vitae and an updated United Nations Personal History Form (P.11) (available on our website), via email to dqvas@unops.org. Kindly indicate the vacancy number and the post title in the subject line when applying by email.

Additional Considerations

- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.
- Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNOPS reserves the right to appoint a candidate at a level below the advertised level of the post.

**** The terms and conditions of the contract will be subject to the new UN Staff Regulations and Rules to come in effect as of 1 July 2009.***

For more information on UNOPS, please visit the UNOPS website at www.unops.org.