



Vacancy Announcement

<u>VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER</u>	CCD/10/P/TEMP/002
<u>DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS</u>	23 June 2010
<u>POST TITLE AND LEVEL</u>	Programme Officer – Support to Scientific Community, P-3
<u>DURATION</u>	6 MONTHS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION
<u>DUTY STATION</u>	BONN, GERMANY
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT</u>	SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
<u>INDICATIVE ANNUAL SALARY</u>	USD 55,259 (without dependents) USD 59,200 (with dependents) Plus variable post adjustment and other UN benefits

TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT

APPOINTMENT LIMITED TO SERVICE WITH UNCCD

The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification around the world, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.

The functions of the secretariat are, among others, to make arrangements for sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies. In addition the secretariat also provides assistance to Parties in implementing the Convention.

The Knowledge Management, Science and Technology (KMST) unit acts as a center and collection point for scientific studies and research on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). KMST, in conjunction with the Committee for Science and Technology (CST) Bureau, coordinates support for the work of the CST by providing documents and organizing its meetings. KMST also stands as a network that provides and gathers support for the scientific community in developing practices to mitigate the effects of DLDD.

The unit also plays a key role in the 10-year Strategic plan to advance the Convention process in the creation of a sound scientific foundation, including common baselines, land degradation assessment standards as well as databases and monitoring tools. It should finally collect, analyze, and promote lessons, case studies and best practices to reverse the effects of desertification and land degradation as well as mitigate the effects of drought.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Coordinator, the incumbent will support the unit in the knowledge of the composition and monitoring of activities of scientific community working on DLDD and ensure that ways and means are given to it for its increased participation, interest and contribution to the CST related process. In particular, the incumbent will:

1. Support the Unit in its networking at all levels with the scientific community on DLSD issues by:
 - (a) Ensuring on-going updating and dynamic use of the records of expertise and fields of expertise of relevant international, regional, non governmental and private scientific organizations and networks, as well as promoting the identification of scientific contact points to be used for better networking;
 - (b) Ensuring an updating and increasing use of the roster of experts and of the lists of national sciences and technology correspondents;
 - (c) Keeping posted on the programmatic orientations, activities and events related to DLDD of the scientific community and advising the unit as appropriate.
2. Assist in the substantive organization of meetings involving scientific community such as, regional scientific meetings, the scientific conference style format of the CST and other ad-hoc meeting of experts aiming to CST becoming a scientific platform on DLDD and to provide scientists and policy makers with relevant interface for exchange.
3. Support the involvement of the scientific community in the CST process and CCD implementation by:
 - (a) Preparing and implementing an innovative strategic approach of mobilization and sensitization of the scientists from all fields related to DLDD, including the monitoring of their involvement;
 - (b) Developing operational partnerships and exploring ways and means to strengthen working modalities in the context of the CST;
 - (c) Promoting capacity building using appropriate mechanisms to encourage the contribution of the scientists in DLDD;

- (d) Contributing, in cooperation with the relevant KMST officer, to developing a scientific platform of exchange for scientists using UNCCD website and Internet.
4. Upon request, participate and contribute to meetings relevant to sciences and technology, in particular to the scientific bodies of the Rio Conventions and ensure follow-up as appropriate.
 5. Prepare study and reports requested by the CST and its subsidiary bodies on matters relating to the roster of experts, the survey and evaluation of existing networks, the fellowship programme, the CST scientific conference style format meeting and its lead institution/consortium.
 6. Performs other duties as required by the Coordinator.

REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental sciences with a specialization in soil.
- A minimum of five years of experience of working in and/or with the academic scientific community, of which up to 3 should have been at international level. Existing records in organizing conferences, seminars and workshops, with a role in the strategic formulation of the scientific/technical aspects. Experience and achievement of networking activities with scientific community. Experience in planning and establishment of partnership.
- Fluency in oral and written English is essential; knowledge of second UN official language would be an asset.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Professionalism:

- The capacity to identify problems/issues and participate in their resolution.
- Ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor own work plan.
- Ability to provide sound technical advice to managers.

Communication:

- Ability to produce a variety of written reports in a clear, concise style, to deliver presentations to external audiences and to build/maintain effective partnerships.

Teamwork:

- Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations in a multi-cultural organization.

Technological Awareness:

- The capacity to make effective use of required computer software and other equipment relevant to the post.

All applicants are requested to complete a United Nations Personal History form (P.11) form available online at <http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/vacancies.php> or at your local UN Office.

Interested UN staff members at the level of the post or one level below should attach their last two up-to-date PASs. Provision of the PAS is the responsibility of the applicant. Due to the volume of applications all internal candidates and only those external candidates under serious consideration will be acknowledged.

PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED as per ST/AI/1999/8.

All applications should be sent to: VA CCD/10/P/TEMP/002, Attention: Recruitment, UNCCD, P.O. Box 260129, D-53153 Bonn, Germany, Telefax: + 49 228 815 2898 or by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int. No telephone calls will be returned. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address your application to or copy it to an individual at the secretariat.

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs (Charter of the United Nations – Chapter 3, article 8).

The Executive Secretary reserves the right to appoint a candidate at one level below the advertised level of the post.

PLEASE INDICATE THE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER ON THE ENVELOPE OR THE FAX, AND ON THE APPLICATION.

Date of issuance:

9 June 2010