BACKGROUND

Established in 1944, the WBG is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and knowledge for development solutions. In fiscal year 2018, the WBG committed $67 billion in loans, grants, equity investments and guarantees to its members and private businesses, of which $24 billion was concessional finance to its poorest members. It is governed by 188-member countries and delivers services out of 120 offices with nearly 15,000 staff located globally. The WBG consists of five specialized institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The World Bank is organized into six client-facing Regional Vice-Presidencies, several corporate functions and thirteen Global Practices to bring best-in-class knowledge and solutions to regional and country clients.

The World Bank Group (WBG)’s twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity reflect a new global landscape: one in which developing countries have an unprecedented opportunity to end extreme poverty within a generation.

Sustainable environment and natural resources management is at the heart of the WBG’s poverty agenda. Biodiversity and natural resources constitute the social safety net of the poor, representing a food bank and often their only source of livelihood. The Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy Global Practice (ENB GP) has been set-up to deliver on the opportunities, benefits and outcomes offered by enhanced management of the environment and natural resources. The ENB GP has close to 300 operations under management, representing close to $7 billion, and a growing pipeline of new investments under active development. The practice consists of some 275 staff across the world plus numerous other staff in other Practices and CCSAs that are professionally associated with it. The ENB GP has three broad and distinct functions: (a) Provides clients with lending and non-lending services aimed to support the GP’s three core business lines, namely: (i) Forests, Watersheds and Sustainable Landscapes; (ii) Marine, Coastal and Aquatic Resources; and (iii) Pollution Management and Environmental Health. The GP’s activities also include a focus on Clean and Resilient Growth through its work on environmental economics and support to institutional development; (b) Works closely with other sectors to mainstream environmental considerations into their policies, strategies, and operations; and (c) Supports effective environmental risk management and sustainability by managing risk at the project level and creating opportunities to advance sustainable development, in part through the implementation of the Bank’s environmental policies.

The incoming staff will join the Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy Global Practice (ENB GP) unit that covers the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. S/he will report to the Practice Manager of the unit.
The Environmental Specialist will be based in the WB Washington DC Headquarters. She/he will report to the ENB Practice Manager for the Middle East and North Africa Region (MNA). During his/her tenure, the incoming staff will support directly priority activities that have recently emerged in the ENB MENA program where his/her support becomes critical for the task team to ensure the deliverables (both on the investment and the analytical side) including (i) a regional program on Blue Economy with a focus on the Mediterranean sea (MENA Blue) including technical assistant and analytical work with the participating countries, (ii) the preparation and implementation of USD 50 million operation on integrated oases landscape management in Tunisia, (iii) the preparation and implementation of the USD 100 million Morocco Blue Economy Development Project, and (iv) the support to the preparation of development policy lending with a focus on climate resilience in response to MENA regional priorities.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Environmental Specialist will be responsible for the day-to-day support to the Bank’s ENB program in the MENA region, including financing and analytical activities in the area of natural resources management (“green” terrestrial landscapes and “blue” marine/coastal areas).

The Environmental Specialist will be required to undertake the following tasks:

- Contribute to the policy dialogue and strategic communication with counterparts on environment and natural resources management and sustainable development.
- Support Task Team Leaders (TTLs) carry out the day to day management of the program.
- Coordinate with key counterpart agencies, as well as local stakeholders and consultants.
- In coordination with the counterpart agencies, support the collection of data and necessary information, communication with stakeholders that are inputs of the WB funded activities.
- Contribute to the technical aspects of the ENB activities.
- Provide technical skills in environment and natural resources management in the areas of land degradation, biodiversity and/or marine and coastal resources management to contribute to the delivery of the WB program.
- Support the organization of workshops for dissemination and stakeholder meetings.
- Contribute towards organizing and delivery of capacity building training to relevant stakeholders.
- Support the WB activities by identifying potential experts and consultants who could contribute towards the preparation of outputs, including within NGOs, think tanks and academia to further build national capacity for upstream environmental analytical work.
- S/he would coordinate closely with other Bank staff working in the country and region.

Note:

The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving his/her own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Educational Degree: At least a Master’s degree in environmental sciences / engineering / economy in the areas of natural resource management;
- Relevant Experience: At least 5 years relevant experience in environmental sciences / engineering / economics skills with experience in the areas of natural resource management (marine and coastal, fisheries, land);
- Strong technical skills in the areas of environment and natural resources management;
- Previous participation in research/analytical work;
• Excellent workflow management and task organization skills; able to coordinate all aspects of the workflow of assigned responsibilities;
• Excellent written and oral communication skills including the ability to draft concise reports and correspondence, and ability to defend orally and in writing difficult issues and positions to a variety of stakeholders;
• Good team player who can work as a member of a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural team, motivate and lead group efforts and network effectively across boundaries;
• Experience in working with different stakeholders to lead discussions on environmental matters;
• Willingness to travel extensively internationally is required, also to remote areas;
• Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English and French. Arabic is desirable; and
• Ability to work well independently.