



Donor Funded Staffing Program

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| TOR No: | 2021-017 |
| Title: | Senior Biodiversity Specialist |
| Grade: | GG |
| Division/VPU: | GEFPU/GEFVP |
| Duty Location: | Washington, DC |
| Appointment Type and Duration: | Two-year Term Appointment |

BACKGROUND

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral financial mechanism created in 1991 to provide grant and concessional funds to recipient countries for projects and programs that address biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, degradation of international waters, land and forests, ozone depletion, elimination or reduction of persistent organic pollutants and mercury, all within the framework of sustainable development.

The GEF unites 183 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. An independently operating financial organization, GEF is the designated financial mechanism for five international environmental conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Minamata Convention on Mercury. GEF is also a designated financial mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

In the years since its establishment, the GEF has funded over 4,500 projects in 170 countries, and many thousands more through the GEF Small Grants Program, providing \$20.5 billion in grants that leveraged \$112 billion in co-financing. The GEF Secretariat, construed for administrative purposes as a Vice Presidential Unit (VPU) within the World Bank, has approximately 100 professional and administrative and client support staff.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The GEF Secretariat is looking for a dynamic and experienced Senior Biodiversity Specialist, with a passion for conservation, sustainable land use systems and land use planning, including forest restoration, as means to promote integrated and transformative approaches to reverse the environmental degradation and provide the necessary natural conditions to allow humanity and life on earth to keep evolving within the planetary boundaries.

The Senior Biodiversity Specialist will have a key role in the implementation of the GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy as well as supporting the development of the GEF-8 Programming Directions with special focus on biodiversity. She/he will support the GEFSEC's mandate to deliver global environmental benefits by supporting developing countries in their commitments towards several Multilateral Agreements.

The selected candidate will also ensure that generally recognized methodologies to estimate, monitor and report on biodiversity-related core indicators are appropriately included in and applied to the GEF portfolio of biodiversity (BD) projects and programs.

The ideal candidate should have a workable understanding of the complexity of the GEF partnership arrangement and of the dynamics of a complex set of GEF client countries. The candidate should have strong interpersonal skills, experience with biodiversity conservation projects in developing countries, along with political acumen and the capacity to work effectively on sensitive issues with senior management, the GEF Council and across different implementing agencies and partners of the GEF.

Reporting to the GPU Manager, the selected candidate will provide support to the GEF Programs Unit and work across regions and thematic focal areas, as required.

Project Review and Regional Team(s) Participation

Under the supervision of the Manager of the GEF Programs Unit, the selected candidate will:

1. Participate in and support the GEF work within the Biodiversity Focal Area Team and activities determined by that team. Specifically, represent the GEF in meetings at the CBD Convention, which may include preparatory work for the CBD COP, the CBD COP-MOP of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the COP-MOP of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing Arising from the Utilization of Genetic Resources. Preparatory work includes drafting of the GEF Report to the CBD, representing the GEF at the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI). Organize GEF sponsored events at the CBD Meetings.
2. Engage in the evaluation, review, implementation and monitoring of projects developed under the GEF-6 and GEF-7 Programming Directions, particularly but not limited to projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia regions.
3. Engage with the appropriate GEF Agency in the strategic planning leading to continuation of the program in GEF-8 as appropriate. This includes the review of the Results- and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
4. Manage reviews of project proposals to be financed by the GEF Trust Fund, according to the agreed project review criteria, provide guidance on major issues involved in the development of project proposals and assist in overall preparation of work programs to be presented to council.
5. Participate in the GEF work within Regional Teams on GEF issues, including participation in country dialogues, expanded constituency workshops, and the GEF Country Support Program.
6. As required, represent the GEF at a senior level at selected international, political, scientific and operational
7. Provide cross-support for biodiversity conservation activities across other GEF focal areas and programs, including the use of non-grant instruments for financing global environmental benefits.
8. Participate in the political outreach to relevant countries in international fora, with the CBD and other related international instruments.
9. Provide quality inputs to the CEO and GPU Director on country and thematic briefings, talking points, speeches, analytical/strategic documents.

10. Support the design and development of knowledge management products, brochures, outreach and communication material, and provide inputs on the revision of operational processes and procedures, as requested.
11. Support the development and delivery of GEF reports, Council documents, engagement plans, and other work products related to the Climate Change Mitigation Focal Area, as needed.
12. Undertake additional duties as required by Director and Manager of the GEF Programs Unit.

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

- The candidate should possess a Master's with at least eight years of professional experience, or a Ph.D., with seven years of experience in the field of landscape management, climate change, natural resources management/environmental sciences, economics, or other relevant discipline.
- The candidate should demonstrate an excellent knowledge of biodiversity conservation, land use planning, and forest landscape restoration.
- In addition to the required skills above, the following skills would be desirable:
 - Experience with large-scale, multi-country programs in biodiversity conservation;
 - Experience with projects and programs in developing countries, Asia, Latin America and/or Africa;
- Ability to deal with a range of stakeholders, international organizations, development agencies, scientific and technical bodies, private sector entities, developing country counterparts, and NGOs would be an advantage.
- Ability to think analytically, strategically, and programmatically.
- Proven record of constructive and positive engagement in leading a program and policy dialogue with client Governments, donors and other stakeholders;
- Proven ability to work in teams, both as a team leader and team member
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English, including ability to communicate complex issues to a wide range of audiences. Second language (French, Spanish or Portuguese) is highly desirable.
- Ability to work independently on complex tasks on tight deadlines.
- Demonstrated ability to function as a team player within and across teams.
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment in an international setting;
- Working knowledge of the operations of the Global Environment Facility and its Agencies is preferable.