

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title: Junior Professional Officer (Global Environment Monitoring Programme Oceans)

Unit: Global Environmental Monitoring

Branch: Early Warning and Data Analytics

Location: Nairobi duty station

Duration: Two years

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP through its Early Warning and Assessments Division (EWAD) has the mandate to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance are prioritized and receive appropriate and adequate consideration by governments, and to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information. This includes Global Environment Monitoring Systems for Early Warning (GEMS) which provide a critical service function to UNEP as well as the broader communities and member states.

Under the overall guidance of the Director, EWAD, and the overall supervision of the Head of the GEMS for Early Warning Unit, Early Warning and Data Analytics Branch, the incumbent will work primarily on the implementation of an innovative Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean) Programme as well as integrated environmental assessments focusing on data and information for policy making.

By adopting the dedicated Sustainable Development Goal on the ocean and its resources (SDG 14 "Life below water") in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries worldwide acknowledge the central role of marine and coastal resources in achieving prosperity and human and ecosystem health. Globally down to the Regional Seas it is further recognized that observing and monitoring systems are essential to better understand the impacts of society and human activities on marine ecosystems and the services they provide.

UNEP recognizes that the challenge lies in compiling, synthesising, and analysing output data and information from the multiple ocean monitoring and observation systems worldwide in order to have knowledge and services at hand and accessible at a scale where they can be operationalised to inform true transformation. Duplication with existing monitoring initiatives shall be avoided.

The GEMS Ocean vision is to provide relevant open and easily accessible ocean and coastal data, analysis, and information, guiding actions to protect and sustainably use marine and coastal resources. The mission is to co-design and convene a global Community of Practice across experts and society at large to provide capacity, analysis, innovation and synthesized information to decision and policy makers, civil society, international organizations as well as coastal communities to keep the global ocean and coasts healthy and productive.

The GEMS Ocean Programme has three strategic goals:

- Promote and convene a transdisciplinary agile partnership focused on sustainable coastal and ocean use and ecosystem health.
- Strengthen capacity development on key aspects of ocean monitoring with a focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Developing Countries;
- Provide access to the use of quality assured, interoperable, open environmental data, analysis and sets of indicators to governments, and stakeholders.

The GEMS Ocean Programme by working with Member States, donors and expert communities sees its niche precisely in bridging the gap between data rich and unavailability data by operating, as per UNEP's mandate, at the interface between science and policy and the people who need the data. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the Challenge 7 on "Expanding the Global Ocean Observing System" provide opportunities for the creation of partnerships in ocean observation while deepening the existing relationships within the science and observing communities. The UN Ocean Decade also calls for the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Additionally, the Ocean Decade Challenge 8 calls for

In September 2022 the UN Ocean Decade officially endorsed GEMS Ocean as a programme of the Decade. The key partner Mercator Ocean International (MOI), the data hub, MOI have been appointed as the UN Ocean Decade, Ocean Prediction Centre. Working in close collaboration with, among others, GEMS Ocean and UNEP Regional Seas, Ocean Prediction DCC will promote the co-creation and development of ocean forecasting capacities worldwide.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

The Junior Professional Officer will be an integral part of the Global Environmental Monitoring Systems for Early Warning Unit and will provide input into the team's work plan particularly on implementing the GEMS Ocean programme. The scientific expertise of the Junior Professional Officer will be required to support the co-design and convening of a global Community of Practice across experts and society at large to provide capacity, analysis, innovation and synthesized information to decision and policy makers, civil society, international organizations as well as coastal communities. The JPO will also support the internal coordination of the delivery of the work with Member States, donors and expert communities in bridging the gap

between data rich and unavailability data by operating, as per UNEP's mandate, at the interface between science and policy and the people who need the data. The professional will support the internal coordination of UNEP's Science Division inputs for the "UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" in collaboration with UNESCO's International Oceanographic Commission and a wide range of UN partners and collaborative centres. This could include conducting specific research, drafting communication pieces or parts of scientific reports, reviewing and commenting on portions of the report, tracking and compiling review comments, support capacity development activities and timely delivery of the GEMS Ocean Programme outputs and products to be finally integrated in UNEP's World Environment Situation Room (WESR).

Supervision

Content and methodology of the supervision

The Early Warning and Assessment Division's Global Environmental Monitoring Services Unit and in particular the Programme Management Officer leading the GEMS Ocean Programme as the direct supervisor of the JPO, will provide high-quality supervision, guidance and mentoring to the Junior Professional Officer including the following elements:

- The Supervisor will brief the Junior Professional Officer on arrival, as well as carry out introductions to the Unit, Branch and Early Warning and Assessment Division colleagues;
- Relevant internal induction documents will be provided to enable the Junior Professional Officer to explore and learn about elements of UNEP's work on a regular basis;
- The Junior Professional Officer will be invited to regular meeting within the Division, Branch as well as Global Environmental Monitoring and Early Warning Services Unit team.
- Workplans for the Junior Professional Officer will be discussed in the context of the objectives and expectations of the Global Environmental Monitoring Systems Unit's priority areas.
- The style of supervision will be inclusive and involve daily consultations, and regular feedback on the progress of work assigned both individually and with the relevant thematic area. The Junior Professional Officer and Supervisors will use Inspira, the UN Secretariat platform for online ePerformance, to structure the timing and methodology of feedback and tracking of performance;
- Feedback on the execution of activities will be provided in relation to the delivery of agreed outputs in the workplan.

First appraising officer: Ms Joana Akrofi

Title first appraising officer: Lead, Global Environmental Monitoring for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean) Programme.

Unit first appraising officer: Global Environmental Monitoring Systems Unit

Location first appraising officer: UN Environment Programme Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

Second appraising officer: Mr. Richard Munang

Title second appraising officer: Head of Global Environment Monitoring (GEMS) Unit, Early Warning and Analytics Branch

Location second appraising officer: UN Environment Programme Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Programme Officer Global Environmental Monitoring for ocean and coasts, in the Global Environmental Monitoring Systems Unit, the JPO will:

1. Assist the Programme Management Officer in coordinating the work and implementation of the Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean) Programme.
2. Assist the implementation and the overall project management of workstreams and case studies under the GEMS Ocean Programme, monitor progress and identify problems and issues to be addressed and initiates corrective action.
3. Assist in liaising with UN Environment Programme Divisions, relevant United Nations agencies, collaborating centres and other institutions as appropriate on coastal marine observation data and information and related issues.
4. Assist overseeing the governance and membership of GEMS Ocean partnership and supports in actively identifying and seeking engagement of new strategic and technical partners.
5. Assist in preparation of written outputs, e.g., draft background papers, analysis, sections of reports and studies, inputs to publications, as relevant to the GEMS Ocean Programme and the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
6. Supports further resource mobilization for the work of the GEMS Ocean Programme and coordinate with donors and partners widely to that effect.
7. Assist in the support and follow up of the implementation of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment including socioeconomic aspects (World Oceans Assessment) and the expert network Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) within UNEP.
8. Assist in administrative duties of the GEMS unit and contribute to assessments, reports and other products and services under the umbrella of GEMS Ocean, including the coordination of inputs of technical implementing partners; research, analyses and presents information gathered from diverse sources while performing other related duties.

Output expectations

The incumbent will contribute to the UNEP data strategy in supporting data and information products to be integrated in UNEP's World Environment Situation Room (WESR) under Oceans and Seas.

The incumbent will generally assist in delivery of all the GEMS oceans-related work in the GEMS Unit.

Travel

As required by Global Environmental Monitoring unit the JPO will undertake some missions related to the work of the Unit.

Training and Learning Element

Training

The incumbent will follow regular prescribed staff training (5 days per year) along with relevant training opportunity to undertake the following courses:

1. Results-based management training and career development planning: the Junior Professional Officer will be offered opportunities to participate in UN Environments' results-based management training and undertake relevant training programmes.
2. UNEP's online training programmes: the Junior Professional Officer will be provided the opportunity to undertake a variety of programmes provided by UN Environment including Gender Mainstreaming, Social Safeguards, Greening the Environment etc.
3. On the job training: the supervisors of the Junior Professional Officer are committed to providing daily on the job training for the JPO's effective operation in the UN Environment.
4. Specialized training in consultation with the supervisor.

Learning elements:

After one year the Junior Professional Officer can:

- Assist in the delivery of an innovative partnership to co-design and convene a global Community of Practice across experts and society at large to provide capacity, analysis, innovation and synthesized information to decision and policy makers, civil society, international organizations as well as coastal communities to keep the global ocean and coasts healthy and productive.

After two years the Junior Professional Officer is able to:

- Master the coordination of networks and collaborating with partners in the provision of user needs service in support of decision making with the relevant inputs to the UNEP data strategy and the WESR.

In addition, throughout the two years the Junior Professional Officer will acquire knowledge of: the functioning of UNEP, contacts within and outside the United Nations system as well as other partners working on Ocean Science and observation data, understanding multicultural work-environment, familiarity with rules and regulations, improved negotiating skills, improved editing, writing, reporting, organizational and evaluation skills.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications: Advanced degree in an area of environmental science or natural resources management, with particular emphasis on oceanography/coastal and marine science or equivalent, including the analysis of environmental and socio-economic data and marine and coastal observation data and information to support decision making.

(A first-level university degree in combination with four additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.)

Skills: Proficient writing skills and working knowledge of English is required. Excellent information and communication technology skills are needed.

Working experience: A minimum of two years of progressively responsible experience in sustainable development and implementation of environmental related programmes particularly on coastal marine area, projects and activities is required. Prior experience at the international level is highly advantageous.

Fluency in English is essential. Working knowledge of other UN languages is an asset.

Competencies

Professionalism: Demonstrated ability to identify key strategic issues and to provide innovative technical and scientific inputs and guidance for the production of integrated, comprehensive, policy relevant, global environmental assessments and reports, including related projects, incorporating gender perspectives.

Teamwork: Ability to work collaboratively with and to establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds, in order to achieve organizational goals.

Planning and Organizing: Ability to identify priority activities and assignments within the areas of responsibility consistent with agreed strategies and organizational goals.

Living conditions at duty station

The UN classifies Nairobi as class B, entitling UN Staff to every two years home leave.

Nairobi enjoys normal living conditions for a developing country in Africa.