

Short-Term Opportunity in the Andean Amazon: Medicinal Plant Use and Traditional Knowledge in Indigenous Territories

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking individuals with expertise in all aspects of:

- Protection of Traditional Knowledge
- Medicinal plants used by Indigenous communities (identification, use, practices, legal protection, oral tradition, etc.)
- Strategies to promote the conservation, use, and management of medicinal plants within indigenous communities
- Promoting cultural exchanges between indigenous tribes

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA) is a five year program (2006-2011) that brings together the efforts of 20 public and private organizations working in the Amazon regions of Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia, with the goal of building constituencies and agreements which promote the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and environmental services of the region. The Initiative is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and was designed through an extensive consultation process involving over 200 representatives of regional organizations.

For more information, please visit <http://www.amazonia-andina.org/en>

ASSIGNMENT: Specialists will conduct approximately 1-week assignments in each: Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. Significant planning and coordination time will be required at the home duty station for pre-trip preparation, and additional time will be necessary for post-trip follow-up.

SCHEDULE: The assignments are expected to occur over the course of the next year and a half, with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, and our in-country partners.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background materials will be provided to the selected individuals prior to the assignment. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP staff on preparation and follow-up via phone and email.

Within four weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide DOI-ITAP with a thorough Analysis Document with specific observations, evaluations and recommendations for mining in each of countries visited as well as a brief draft report focusing on trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future assistance.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals and incidentals, immunizations, etc.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

Persons wishing to be considered for these assignments should meet the following:

- Must be current or retired DOI employee or other USG or state government employee (preference given to current or retired DOI employees).
- Experience and expertise in most or all of the topics listed above under “opportunity”
- Interpersonal skills needed to effectively collaborate with DOI, USAID, foreign governments, NGO partners, and other stakeholders.
- Ability to adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups.
- Interpersonal and diplomacy skills to effectively collaborate with DOI, other US government agencies, foreign governments, NGO partners, and other stakeholders
- Must have the ability to provide practical, hands-on training and instruction, often in primitive and challenging conditions, and with limited resources.
- Previous international experience is desirable.
- Experience in tropical areas is desirable.
- Spanish fluency.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness-for-duty.

If you are selected for this assignment, you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor’s approval to participate in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Current resume
2. Cover letter, summarizing relevant work experience

Please submit applications via email or fax to:

Angel Córdova
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
E-mail: angel_cordova@ios.doi.gov
Fax : 202-208-3983

Please contact Angel Córdova (202-513-7734) with any questions.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis through the length of the program.

If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary.

Employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement are required to have supervisory approval prior to submitting an application.

NPS applicants should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs. All NPS applicants must have the approval to apply from their Associate Director or Regional Director.

All BLM applicants should also copy their applications to Olivia Sierra (osierra@blm.gov) in the BLM Office of International Affairs.

Application Process

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several months. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

This position is open to all applicants who meet the stated requirements. Every effort will be made to select applicants that have not yet had the opportunity to participate on an ITAP assignment.