

## **Vacancy Announcement**

*Issued on: 26 August 2019*

*Extended on 10 Sep 2019*

<b>Position:</b>	National Climate Change Analyst (Lao PDR)
<b>Project:</b>	Building climate resilience of urban systems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Asia-Pacific region
<b>Location:</b>	Based in Vientiane, with regular travel to Phongsaly and Oudomxay, Lao PDR
<b>Duration:</b>	11 months (initial contract up to 31 December 2019, with possibility of extension)
<b>Type of Contract:</b>	LICA 9

### **1. ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable communities, towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. In collaboration with governments, UN-Habitat is charged to promote and consolidate collaboration with all partners, including local authorities and private and non-government organizations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The position is based in Phongsaly and Oudomxay, Lao PDR. Reporting to the UN-Habitat Chief Technical Advisor in Lao PDR, and the Human Settlements Officer in the Regional Office for Asia in close cooperation with other staff and consultants involved in the project, particularly the International Expert and Coordinator and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment and while also coordinating and communicating with relevant stakeholders involved in her/his activities, the National Climate Change Analyst will support the delivery of training that forms the main part of the outputs of the sub-project to be executed by UN-Habitat under the overall project.

### **2. BACKGROUND, PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The countries of the Asia-Pacific region including Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar - all Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - are undergoing a period of rapid urbanization, the rate of which has proven particularly challenging for urban planning in the towns and cities targeted by this project; Thimphu (Bhutan), Kep (Cambodia), Phongsaly and Oudomxay (Lao PDR) and

Mandalay (Myanmar). Rural communities that have migrated to urban areas often have to live in informal settlements characterised by limited access to basic services, poverty and social marginalisation. One significant impact of such rapid urbanization that affects the aforementioned urban areas is the reduced provisioning of ecosystem goods and services. In other words, rapid expansion of towns and cities, both in terms of their population and physical size, affects the neighbouring natural environment, which in turn affects the ability of the environment to provide services, including water, clean air, temperature regulation, and nutrients that support food production, to people.

One example of the effects of this reduction of ecosystem goods and services is the creation of “urban heat islands” owing to the degradation of wetland and forest ecosystems following the clearing of land in peri-urban areas and the removal of heat absorbing vegetation. Moreover, current and projected climate change and variability is expected to exacerbate the pre-existing socio-economic challenges faced by many poor urban communities in these 5 pilot cities, who often rely strongly on ecosystem goods and services. Vulnerability to climate change varies in nature and extent across the four countries at the centre of this project. According to the Global Climate Risk Index (2018), all countries in the project showed high levels of vulnerability to climate change. Myanmar, for example, is ranked as the third most vulnerable country in the world over the period 1997-2016.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), is defined as the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change<sup>1</sup>. EbA can be seen as a strategic approach that can achieve the simultaneous protection of ecosystems and the natural environment and building of urban resilience through improved planning processes, frameworks and knowledge.

However, there are several barriers that prevent the uptake of EbA by local decision-makers in Asia and the Pacific. These include: limited experience with EbA approaches to urban planning, limited technical capacity in relevant government and city management authorities, a lack of on-the ground practical examples from the region, and a lack of coordination between government departments, the private sector, and research institutions in sharing knowledge on EbA approaches.

To address the above challenges, the Project: **Building climate resilience or urban systems through Ecosystem-based adaptation in the Asia Pacific Region** is being implemented in the aforementioned five cities in four Asia-Pacific countries; over four years from 2018 to 2022. UN Environment’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is the project’s implementing agency, and will execute activities with ministries in the target countries and UN-Habitat at the regional level.

The overall project has three main components. **Component 1** will strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of city management authorities to plan and implement EbA. This will support improved decision-making on climate change adaptation in urban areas in the Asia-Pacific region, thereby promoting resilient urban development. **Component 2** implements urban EbA interventions on-the-ground in each of the selected municipalities. These on-the-ground ecosystem-based adaptation interventions will increase the capacity of urban communities living in vulnerable areas within the pilot cities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. **Component 3** will promote the generation, dissemination and management of knowledge – including the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://unepmeba.org/en/definiciones/eba/> - accessed 9/4/2018

information and tools developed within Component 1 – on urban EbA in each pilot city and across the broader Asia-Pacific region, thereby supporting upscaling of the urban EbA approach.

UN-Habitat will execute activities under two Outputs of Component 1 that focus on capacity and tool development; and will provide technical advice in the project throughout the execution of this sub-project as a member of the Project Steering Committee.

In order to overcome the issues arising from limited technical capacity, and in turn to help reduce the vulnerability of urban communities, UN-Habitat aims, through execution of this sub-project, to strengthen the institutional capacity at the city, local and national government level in pilot cities to plan and implement urban EbA. This will be achieved through:

- **Output 1.2** Developing and facilitating training workshops for city management authorities; and
- **Output 1.3** Designing and delivering decision-making tools to assist the integration of urban EbA into development planning and the NAP process in the 4 countries involved

The sub-project will be executed in collaboration with government agencies in the five pilot cities in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

### **3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Overall:** In support of the implementation of Component 1 of the project, UN-Habitat is seeking a National Climate Change Analyst in Lao PDR to support the execution of the project in Phongsaly and Oudomxay, Lao PDR. The Analyst should be based in Vientiane

**Duties and responsibilities:** Under the scope of work, it is expected that the National Climate Change Analyst will perform the following activities:

- **Provide** substantive analysis of the planning system, capacity and governance structure in each of the respective countries
- **Coordinate** extensively with the International Expert to ensure that tools and guidance produced both address gaps in country capacity and practice while also reflecting local needs, requirements and preferences
- **Undertake** a rapid training needs assessment of local/provincial government officials in the target area
- **Support** the development of training materials
- **Coordinate** the translation of training materials into local language
- **Participate in, and where appropriate,** take the lead in delivering training modules to be developed under the sub-project
- **Provide** additional support to UN Environment ROAP and UN-Habitat ROAP in support of delivering the sub project or the overall project, as required.

### **5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

Qualifications	
Education	Advanced university degree in social sciences, environmental science/management, economics, urban planning, international development or related field.
Experience and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 3 years of relevant and progressively responsible experience in climate change, ecosystems, environmental management or a related field.</li> <li>• Knowledge and prior experience with urban development issues in Laos</li> <li>• Experience working with and providing technical assistance to government</li> <li>• Experience in developing training material for local government</li> <li>• Excellent communication skills, both written and interpersonal, are essential</li> <li>• Proficient at Microsoft Office</li> </ul>
Language Requirements	Fluency in oral and written English is essential.

**Competencies:**

- **Professionalism:** Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations.
- **Communication:** Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.
- **Teamwork:** Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others’ ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.
- **Client Orientation:** Considers all those to whom services are provided to be “clients” and seeks to see things from clients’ point of view; establishes and maintains productive

partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; identifies clients' needs and matches them to appropriate solutions; monitors ongoing developments inside and outside the clients' environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; keeps clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client.

### *Submission of Applications*

Application should include:

1. Cover memo (maximum 2 pages) including expectations regarding remunerations based on the final output of the consultancy;
2. A completed UN Personal History Form (P-11)  
Please download the form (MS-Word) from UN-Habitat ROAP web site:  
[http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/vacancy/index\\_en.html](http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/vacancy/index_en.html);

All applications should be addressed to: UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ACROS Fukuoka, 8th Floor, Tenjin Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0001 Japan, and sent electronically via e-mail to: [habitat.fukuoka@un.org](mailto:habitat.fukuoka@un.org)

Please indicate the VA Title in your e-mail subject:  
“National Climate Change Analyst (Lao PDR)”

Deadline for Applications: ~~8 September 2019~~ (Extended to 17 September 2019)

Please note that applications received after the closing date stated above will not be given consideration. Only short-listed candidates whose applications respond to the above criteria will be contacted. The salary will be determined according to the qualifications, skills and relevant experience of the selected candidate. Details and conditions of the contract will be communicated at the interview.

**In line with UN-HABITAT policy on gender equity, applications from female candidates are particularly encouraged.**

*UN-Habitat does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process. If you have any questions concerning persons or companies claiming to be recruiting on behalf of these offices and requesting the payment of a fee, please contact: [habitat.fukuoka@un.org](mailto:habitat.fukuoka@un.org)*