

## Vacancy Announcement

*Issued on: 15 May 2019*

<b>Position:</b>	<b>Junior Urban Eco-Systems Based Adaptation Advisor</b>
<b>Project:</b>	Building climate resilience of urban systems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Asia-Pacific region
<b>Location:</b>	Bangkok
<b>Duration:</b>	Three Months – extendable, depending on budget and additional requirements
<b>Type of Contract:</b>	International Individual Contractor Agreement (IICA) Level 1

### 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 Bangkok. The Junior Advisor will work on a daily basis with the Urban EbA Project team and formally report to the Project Manager, based in Fukuoka. Given the that the project is implemented with UN Environment, the Junior Advisor is expected to engage with the UN-Environment Project Manager. Coordinating and communicating with all relevant stakeholders relating to the assignment is critical.

### 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 Thimphu, Kep, Phongsaly, Oudomxay and Mandalay. 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 effects 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. This is particularly problematic for urban poor communities, who often rely strongly on ecosystem goods and services. One example of the effects of this reduction 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. 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-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, UN Environment is working with UN-Habitat to implement the Building climate resilience or urban systems through Ecosystem-based adaptation in the Asia-Pacific Region in 5 cities in four Asia-Pacific countries; Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar over four years from 2018 to 2022.

### 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Overall

In support of the implementation of Component 1 of the project, UN-Habitat is seeking **Junior Urban Eco-Systems Based Adaptation Advisor**.

#### Duties and responsibilities

Under the scope of work, it is expected that Climate Change Specialist will perform the following activities:

- **Assist in the review** and provide comments on the Urban EbA in cities in Asia-Pacific policy note, which was already drafted, provide comments, and develop a 2-page summary in plain English for translation and dissemination to the target cities
- **Develop** a project brochure/information note
- **Support** the process of hiring national consultants in each of the four target countries. This includes developing, agreeing and finalizing the Terms of Reference with the relevant stakeholders, liaising with the country offices to advertise the positions and screening potential candidates. By the end of the consultancy, there should be a national consultant selected in each country.
- With national consultants, support **organization** of a training event in each target city (/country) as outlined in the project document.
- **Support the preparation** of relevant training materials for aforementioned training events.
- **Support the development** of a basic training needs analysis and/or capacity baseline survey for participants to gauge levels of awareness in the target countries and cities on EbA approaches.
- **Research** best practice on urban EbA from around the Asia-Pacific region and, where necessary, beyond

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

- Other tasks, as required and in discussion and agreement with UN-Habitat and UN Environment colleagues

## 5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

Qualifications	
Education:	Master's degree in the fields of urban planning, climate change, resilience, environment or international development.
Experience and skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 1 year of relevant experience in research, project support, urban planning, urban environment, environmental management, capacity development</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience relating to the assignment</li> <li>• Experience working with and providing technical assistance to government</li> <li>• Experience in supporting guidance documents</li> <li>• Experience in developing training material</li> <li>• Knowledge and prior experience with urban development issues in an Asia-Pacific context</li> <li>• Excellent communication skills, both written and interpersonal, are essential</li> <li>• Proficient at Microsoft Office Suite</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 1 page) 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:  
**“Junior Urban Eco-Systems Based Adaptation Advisor”**

Deadline for Applications: 31 May 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)*