



Issued on: 26 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 09 November 2017

JOB TITLE: Soil Consultant

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant (Category B and C)

DUTY STATION: Rome, Italy

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: LAND AND WATER DIVISION (CBL)

DURATION: Assignments from one to six months on a when-actually employed basis; and assignments for 11 months when applicable.

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Organizational Setting

The Land and Water Division aims at enhancing the agricultural productivity and advancing the sustainable use of land and water resources through their improved governance, development and management. It addresses the challenges member countries face in ensuring productive and efficient use of land and water resources in order to meet present and future demands for agricultural products, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the land and water quantity and quality. It promotes equitable access to these natural resources with a view to enhancing productivity, livelihoods and ecosystem services. It provides assistance to member nations in developing policies and programmes, and adopting best practices and tools in the fields of irrigation and drainage, soil and water conservation, drought mitigation, water rights and access to natural resources.

In view of its global mandate, the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat is hosted at the Land and Water Division. The Global Soil Partnership was established in December 2012 as a mechanism to promote sustainable soil management under a strong interactive partnership and enhanced collaboration and synergy of efforts between all stakeholders. From land users through policy makers, one of the key objectives of the GSP is to improve soil governance and promote sustainable management of soils. The Global Soil Partnership Secretariat facilitates the implementation of activities through its regional soil partnerships and scientifically guided through its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.

FAO International Consultants and Call purpose

The purpose of this call is to provide FAO's Land and Water Division (CBL) and the Global Soil Partnership Secretariat with a list of qualified candidates for a number of profiles with different specializations to enhance the FAO/GSP soil's programme of work as indicated below:

- Soil Management Consultant
- Soil Information Consultant
- Soil Awareness raising and Communication Consultant
- Graphic Designer Consultant

Contracts will be based in FAO HQs with required travel for field missions, where relevant.

Reporting Lines

The International Consultant reports to the Director, Land and Water Division and to the GSP Secretary.

Technical Focus

Supporting the development, quality control and effective implementation of FAO's soil portfolio including the Global Soil Partnership work plan through the provision of expertise in relevant technical areas (including awareness raising and communication on soils) with project formulation and implementation supporting member countries.

Tasks and responsibilities

Soil Management Consultants

- Researches and analyzes technical, social, economic, environmental, institutional, and technology related information, data and statistics and/or related policy issues to support the delivery of programme projects, products and services related to sustainable soil management;
- Produces a variety of technical information, data, statistics and reports on soil science and policy as well as input for technical documents and web pages;
- Provides technical support/analysis to various assessments, studies and initiatives and provides technical backstopping to field projects on sustainable soil management;
- Facilitates the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management by organizing regional workshops and supporting countries on this implementation.
- Facilitates the implementation of activities of the International Network of Black Soils.

- Facilitates the implementation of annual global symposiums including the Global Symposium on Soil Contamination and Pollution in 2018.
- Supports the execution of GSP Implementation Plans for Pillars 1 and 3 as a contribution to FAO's mandate on food security, the SDGs and climate change efforts.
- Contributes to the implementation of various projects as per the Healthy Soils Facility.
- Participates on multi-disciplinary teams, and collaborates with other departments and agencies on work groups and committees and promotes best practices of sustainable soil management;
- Collaborates in and ensures the quality / effectiveness of capacity development activities within member countries such as policy support, organizational development and individual learning events including preparation of related information, learning materials, on-line tools in relation to the GSP Pillars;
- Facilitates the implementation of the Soil Doctor programme at all levels.
- Promotes soil knowledge sharing and best sustainable soil management practices at international meetings and conferences and influences partners in stakeholder consultations;
- Supports resource mobilization activities in accordance with the FAO Corporate strategy and under the Healthy Soils Facility.
- Provides technical and policy related advice on sustainable soil management as per the revised World Soil Charter;
- Contributes to organization of the annual GSP Plenary Assemblies.
- Contributes and support to the work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.
- Provide support to the Regional Soil Partnerships in the execution of their regional implementation plans.

Soil Information Consultants

- Facilitate the establishment of the Global Soil Information System and Soil STAT, including the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map.
- Provides technical support/backstopping for the establishment of regional and national soil information systems following Pillar 4 policies and standards.
- Produces a variety of data, statistics, information and reports for different reports, including support to the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.
- Facilitate the implementation of GSP Pillar 4 activities including the functioning of International Network of Soil Information institutions (INSII).
- Facilitate the implementation of GSP Pillar 5 activities including the functioning of the Global Soil Laboratories Network (GLOSOLAN).
- Collaborates in the development of improved/updated tools, systems, processes, and databases of soil data and information;
- Participates on multi-disciplinary teams, and collaborates with other departments and agencies on working groups in relation to soil information serving the SDG process and others.
- Implement a capacity development programme on soil information including digital soil mapping, soil survey and other topics as requested by national soil institutions.
- Provide support to the Regional Soil Partnerships in the execution of their regional implementation plans.

Soil awareness raising and communication Consultants

- Contributes to the development of awareness raising and communication materials on soils as outlined on the GSP Pillar 2 Implementation Plan.
- Manages, maintains and develops the FAO soil web portal and the GSP website.
- Supervises the development of soil related publications (books, brochures, leaflets, communication material etc...) from the design phase to the printing, dissemination and distribution.
- Lead the planning, preparation and implementation of the World Soil Day celebration at global level and supporting national events.
- Supports partnerships with media, civil society, the private sector, research/academia institutions or other strategic players in the framework of the annual World Soil Day campaign.
- Maintains and strengthens the presence of GSP soil related activities in social media channels and networks (through Twitter, You Tube, Flickr, and similar channels of communication).
- Analyses statistics to support effective communication.
- Responds to queries on soil publications and related products.
- Liaises with new potential GSP partners, maintains the partners database and ensures a good and regular communication flow with the current GSP partners and Focal Points through the most appropriate communication tools.
- Advises on strategies for advocacy with partners of the GSP.
- Develops communication products and services on soils to support regional resource mobilization and partnership strategies.
- Produces all the awareness raising and communication for the different soil events of the Global Soil Partnership including annual Plenary Assemblies, regional soil partnership meetings, ITPS working sessions, trainings, symposiums, etc., in line with the corporate communication policy.
- Provide support to the Regional Soil Partnerships in the execution of their regional implementation plans.

Soil Graphic Design Consultant

- Creates all the soil graphic material for all GSP events, material and projects, as per the GSP Implementation Plans and following corporate communication policies and regulations.
- Assists in the management of the FAO soil web portals and produce related communication products.
- Creates and manages design concepts to produce information material including multimedia products and publications such as technical books, flyers, brochures, logos, posters, videos and interactive DVDs.
- Enhances usability and accessibility of the FAO soil web portals portal in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese;

- Elaborates and edits audio and visual material to be posted on the FAO soil web portals, video sharing and social media/network outlets;
 - Produces exhibition soil products for large scale formats used during conferences, forums and meetings abroad and at headquarters;
 - Prepares PDF files for electronic distribution, web posting and high resolution press-ready files.
 - Provide support to the Regional Soil Partnerships in the execution of their regional implementation plans.
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CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced University degree in natural resources, soil science, agriculture, environmental sciences, geography, communication, social science, journalism, or a related field with some specialization in soil science or extent and relevance of experience in soils;
- One to four years of relevant experience in sustainable soil management, or soil data and information management/assessments or communication/awareness raising related to soils for base level consultants, and at least five years' relevant experience in sustainable soil management, or soil data and information management/assessments or communication/awareness raising related to soils for middle level consultants;
- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or Arabic, Chinese, Russian;

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable;
- Extent and relevance of experience in coordinating special events, exhibitions, and campaigns at international level, as well as the production of content for external audiences (UN agencies, stakeholders and other public and private partners), especially in areas relevant to FAO's mandate;
- Understanding of FAO policies and programmes and familiarity with UN policy agendas;
- Experience with World Soil Day (WSD) outreach activities is considered a strong asset;
- Extent and relevance of experience or knowledge of issues related to soil information or sustainable soil management and agriculture (including forestry) and natural resources management in developing countries and in particular in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable agriculture and forestry in developing countries;
- Extent and relevance of experience in the formulation and implementation of projects related to sustainable soil management and knowledge of the Healthy Soils Facility will be an asset;
- Extent and relevance of experience in the preparation of technical and policy reports and capacity development materials;
- Extent of experience in organizing medium to large scale international technical meetings and conferences;
- Experience in the establishment and facilitation of technical networks.

Selection criteria

- Demonstrated experience of work with member countries in terms of normative and technical work on soils;
- Extent and relevance of experience in communication and graphic design specifically related to sustainable soil management and natural resources and excellent command of HTML/ CSS related standards, in web and desktop publishing software and ADOBE Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, InDesign, Acrobat, Bridge, Flash, Premiere, and After Effects; Demonstrated ability to deliver results within deadlines.

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- - FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
 - Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org
 - Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
 - Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
 - For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>
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HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org

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