UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT
Hamilton, Canada

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECT OFFICER – DRYLANDS PROGRAMME
(Personnel Service Agreement – PSA)

Organizational Unit	:	United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)
Reference Number	:	2011/UNU/INWEH/PSA/PO/15
Applications to	:	***By E-mail:*** ***contact@inweh.unu.edu*** Only short-listed candidates will be notified.
Closing Date	:	10 April 2011

United Nations University's Mission:

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate teaching and capacity development and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States. For more information please visit ***www.unu.edu***.

United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health

The UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) is a unit of the United Nations University based in Canada (***www.inweh.unu.edu***). It was created in 1996 with its core funding provided by the Government of Canada, and is hosted at the McMaster University, Hamilton. Its core concern is the global water crisis. It aims to contribute, through capacity development and directed research, to efforts to resolve pressing global water problems that are of concern to the United Nations, its member states and their peoples.

UNU-INWEH's programme structure represents a proactive, selective and longer-term strategy to programme development. Three core functions are: (a) capacity development through the strengthening of scientific, managerial, educational and institutional capacity in developing countries; (b) enhancing and mobilizing knowledge to address policy issues and to fill critical knowledge gaps; and (c) directed science and policy bridging – achieved through application of research and focused on water policy and governance innovations. These core functions are applied to four thematic areas, each representing a critical aspect of the global water challenge:

- Freshwater Ecosystems
- Coastal Ecosystems
- Dryland Ecosystems
- Water-Health Nexus

The programme on Drylands focuses on rehabilitation of degraded drylands in rural environments and global land-degradation assessment programmes leading to harmonization of methodologies and capacity development. It aims to assist developing countries in dry regions to manage their water, land and biodiversity resources sustainably. Activities are undertaken with minimal overhead and flexible teams are assembled from different disciplines and countries with the precise skills and expertise required to meet a given need.

The Project Officer (Drylands) will contribute to the following activities:

- *Research on environmental economics,* particularly in relation to the costs/benefits of land degradation and sustainable land management. The post is expected to develop new activities in the area of environmental economics building on existing partnerships and relations.
- *Research on Alternative Livelihoods*: This research area directly explores the challenges dryland communities face in adopting non-traditional livelihoods in order to conserve their scarce natural resources. The work also relates to enabling policies to facilitate broader adoption of these livelihood approaches.
- *Global Synthesis of Knowledge on Sustainable Land Management:* UNU-INWEH strives to lead a broad, worldwide effort to "warehouse" knowledge that is pertinent to sustainable land management and disseminate it effectively to end-users.
- *Poverty Reduction through Capacity Building:* This area entails capacity development at various scales, ranging from community-based efforts to advanced degree programmes. The capacity building is directly pertinent to poverty-reduction strategies and better integrated natural resource management.

The principal activities of the post will include oversight of a Flemish government funded project on Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands (SUMAMAD) conducted in partnership with UNESCO and research teams from participating countries.

We are looking for an outstanding individual with strong commitment to customer service and the potential to bring a significant contribution to the worldwide expansion of UN University's operations.

Responsibilities:

Under the authority of the UNU-INWEH Director and the direct supervision of the Assistant Director (Drylands), the main duties and responsibilities of the Project Officer include the following:

- The Project Officer (Drylands) serves as an integral member of the UNU-INWEH team. The primary responsibilities of the Project Officer (Drylands) concerns the design and implementation of projects related to the Drylands Programme.
- The Project Officer (Drylands) will manage the afore-mentioned project; particularly coordinating the activities and outputs of the project, including publication and dissemination of the project findings through print- and web-based media. The maintenance and continuous development of a network of experts on dryland issues will be essential to the success of these initiatives.
- Coordinating and organizing project meetings, workshops and conferences.
- Coordinating publication and dissemination of research findings and training materials.
- Undertaking deployment and timely implementation of contracts.
- Monitoring the progress of the project and preparing periodic project reports.
- Contributing to the establishment and maintenance of the project Learning Network, including a database of information.
- Any other duties as may be assigned or required.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Minimum Ph.D. degree in environmental sciences, environmental economics, or a related discipline with at least two years of relevant working experience with project management responsibilities and demonstrated experience of financial management and administrative capabilities, in an international environment.
- A strong preference will be given to those candidates with a focus on SLM and integrated management of natural resources in drylands.
- Demonstrated ability to perform effectively in team-based scientific research, incorporating both social and natural science disciplines, are also highly desirable.
- Experience of working in developing countries and a genuine commitment to capacity-building projects and to sustainable development are also valued.
- Fluent in oral and written English; knowledge of any other UN official languages is advantageous
- Result-oriented, self-motivated and "hands-on" with the ability to prioritize work and multi-task
- Proven interpersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity

Remuneration:

Remuneration will commensurate with qualification and experience. The position carries a salary in the range of US $60,000 to US $65,000 per annum, commensurate with experience. The salary is exempt from Canadian income taxes.

Duration of contract:

This is a full time employment on 1 year Personnel Service Agreement (PSA) contract with the United Nations University-Institute for Water, Environment and Health with possibility for contract renewal subject to satisfactory work performance.

This is an internationally recruited PSA position and a fixed relocation allowance is available to out of town appointees. If necessary for successful candidate, an economy class air ticket will be provided by UNU-INWEH for relocation to Hamilton, Canada. This position will not hold international civil servant status. Suitably qualified women applicants and individuals from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply.

Starting date: June 2011

Application Procedure:

Interested applicants should submit their applications electronically by e-mail, and must include the following:

- a cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position
- a completed and signed UNU Personal History form (P.11), downloadable from UNU's website at ***www.unu.edu/employment***. Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations. **Do not submit your curriculum vitae.**
- full contact information of three referees (including e-mail addresses)
- the application must also indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2011/UNU/INWEH/PO/15).
- The application package should be attached to an e-mail and sent to: contact@inweh.unu.edu; preferably it should be prepared as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file(s). Incomplete applications that do not include all of the requested information will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted; unsuccessful applications can neither be acknowledged nor returned.