

**UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST**

General Information

Post Title Junior Professional Officer, Innovation and Knowledge management for Marine Litter and Microplastics Prevention

Office/division/MEA: Ecosystems Division

Unit Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Duration: 2-3 Years

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations system's designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action.

UNEP has since 1995, through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Litter on Land-based Activities and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (2012), been a leading actor in the global and normative efforts to reduce marine litter and microplastics and assisting developing countries in developing their responses and prioritize policies and measures at the appropriate scale to prevent marine litter and microplastics. A priority area of focus is the implementation of the four marine litter resolutions have been adopted by the UN Environment Assembly to date namely 1/6: Marine plastic debris and microplastics (2014); 2/11: Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2016); 3/7: Marine litter and microplastics (2017); and 4/6 Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2019). All resolutions have called for increased coordination through/with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter with the last one taking note of its revised framework document.

The third session of the UNEP Assembly stressed the importance of a zero vision i.e. long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics. It further urged all actors to step up actions to “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution” and for UNEP strengthen its contribution to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, for which it provides secretariat services.

As the custodian agency for SDG Indicator 14.1.1, ‘Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density,’ UN Environment is also tasked with supporting countries to implement methodologies and procedures to report against target 14.1 ‘By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution’. This is a key area for which additional human resources are needed to further ongoing activities such as capacity building initiatives including the Training of Trainers on the Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Litter and Microplastics as well as the global platform for marine litter monitoring which would feed into the World Environment Situation Room.

The Junior Professional Officer will work under the Marine Litter Programme / Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities / Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch (MCEB) / Ecosystems Division.

Litter is found in all the world's oceans and seas, even in remote areas far from human contact and obvious sources of the problem. The continuous growth in the amount of solid waste thrown away, and the very slow rate of degradation of most items, are together leading to a gradual increase in marine litter found at sea, on the sea floor and coastal shores. It is an economic, environmental, human health and aesthetic problem posing a complex and multi-dimensional challenge. As per the mandate provided through the UN Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter and microplastics, UNEP's work on marine litter and microplastics is guided by following principles and approaches: Use of the precautionary approach; Promotion of interventions which are based on best available knowledge of sources and levels of marine litter and microplastics in the environment, prioritizing policies and measures at the appropriate scale to avoid marine litter and microplastics from entering the marine environment; Addressing such materials at source, by reducing pollution through improved waste management practices in line with the waste hierarchy and by cleaning up existing debris and litter taking into account a product life-cycle approach, and acknowledging that the levels and sources of marine plastic litter and microplastics, and the resources available to tackle the issue, can vary between regions, and that measures need to be taken and adapted as appropriate to local, national and regional situations; Risk-based approach i.e. Problem identification and formulation is followed by a characterization of exposure and effect and lead to the identification of potential intervention points and an evaluation of possible risk management actions, to 'close the loop'; Providing advice on the prioritizing of activities upon request based on best available scientific knowledge, and the most environmentally sound risk-based and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics, according to the UNEA resolutions 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7.

In addition to the request of UNEA to strengthen the capacity and activity of UNEP on marine litter and microplastics, land-based marine litter has also been highlighted in the Bali Declaration (2018) under the GPA as a continued priority source category. The Bali Declaration also requested UNEP to strengthen the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) which was launched in June 2012 at Rio + 20 following the request in the Manila Declaration (2012). Close coordination is ongoing with the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization through the GPML to prevent and address sea-based sources of marine litter.

Innovation and knowledge management is key prevent marine plastic litter and microplastics. This includes innovation in monitoring systems, financing, outreach as well as partnerships, information sharing and alternative materials. The number of actors that are engaging in finding solutions is growing and there is a considerable need to ensure that any progress made is easily accessible and that actors can find each other to coordinate better and avoid duplication, interact, share lessons learned and "match-make" through innovative and cost-efficient means to take immediate action towards the long-term elimination, through a life-cycle approach, of discharges of litter and microplastics into the oceans with a source to sea approach.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

With only one fixed-term international staff currently based in Nairobi, the GPA/Marine Litter programme is charged with the responsibility of carrying out multiple activities related to the implementation of the UNEA-resolutions on marine litter and microplastics, secretariat services to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, supporting the development and implementation of regional and national level action plans on marine litter and supporting countries in SDG 14.1.1

work, as well as providing secretariat support to the ad hoc open experts group to provide input to UNEA-5 in relation to response options to address marine litter and microplastics. In addition there is an increasing demand for innovative approaches in relation to knowledge management, monitoring and

To respond to this increased demand and to ensure the efficient delivery of actions related to the current and future responsibilities, and to facilitate dialogues between actors, there is a clear need to increase the human resources with a focus on innovation and knowledge management to prevent marine plastic litter and microplastics. A Junior Professional Officer for 2-3 years would greatly increase implementation.

Supervision

Direct supervision: Ms. Heidi Savelli Soderberg
Title supervisor: Programme Officer, Marine Litter
Unit supervisor: Global Programme of Action/Marine Litter
Location supervisor: Nairobi
Address, telephone, fax, e-mail and signature of supervisor
P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

The E-Performance system is to be used to appraise the Junior Professional Officers. The Performance Appraisal is also submitted to the donor-government.

Content and methodology of the supervision

The Junior Professional Officer will be introduced to the work of the relevant unit and related programmes/projects after which work programme discussion will take place to provide guidance for the development of the Personnel Appraisal System including measurable targets and project implementation goals. Weekly meetings would address assessment of short-term accomplishments, and review of problems, while quarterly meetings would focus on discussions on job-satisfaction; guidance in the development of the work plan and project implementation. Learning objectives will be developed with quarterly and annual targets.

General objectives, desired results and anticipated problems are discussed beforehand with the incumbent. Regular feedback on the progress of activities is obtained by the supervisor through review of work in process. The incumbent is expected to carry out the duties under general supervision and to consult with the supervisor on issues of policy or other sensitive matters. Final results of each set of activities, is reviewed for attainment of objectives and quality of work.

First appraising officer: Ms. Heidi Savelli Soderberg
Title first appraising officer: Programme Officer
Unit first appraising officer: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Marine Litter)
Location first appraising officer: Nairobi

Second appraising officer: Mr. Habib El-Habr
Title second appraising officer: Coordinator
Unit second appraising officer: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Marine Litter)
Location second appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

The Junior Professional Officer will mainly be responsible of the following activities:

- 1) Assist with the implementation of UN Environment Assembly resolutions with a focus on innovation and knowledge management and support countries to reach the SDG goal 14.1 on marine litter;
- 2) Supporting the expansion of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter by providing knowledge management services to strengthen the partnership including but not limited to gpmarinelitter.org, knowledge products, communities of practice and webinars to increase coordination and information sharing;
- 3) Assist with the development of the global monitoring platform for marine litter in support of in particular SDG 14.1.1 including identification and promotion of innovative approaches to monitor and assess marine plastic litter and microplastics in close coordination with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and other relevant stakeholders;
- 4) Assist with strengthening scientific and technological knowledge with regard to marine litter through e.g. the further identification and development of multi-stakeholder online tools and resources while ensuring interoperability and clear linkages with existing UNEP knowledge platforms such as the World Environment Situation Room;
- 5) Assist with the development and implementation of multi-stakeholder innovation labs and accelerators in collaboration with relevant partners;
- 6) Supporting the delivery and follow up of the global campaign on Marine Litter – Clean Seas – turning the tide on plastics, with a focus on commitment analysis and private sector engagement.

Output expectations

- 1) Successful reporting on the implementation of UNEA resolutions such as 4/6 to UNEA-5.2 in 2022;
- 2) Strengthened Global Partnership on Marine Litter;
- 3) Progress in the set-up of an online global monitoring platform for marine litter and various online tools, repositories and resources feeding into the World Environment Situation Room's Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics entry point to strengthen scientific and technological knowledge;
- 4) Successful launch and implementation of innovation labs and accelerator collaborations identifying solutions for key issues in support of UNEA resolutions on marine plastic litter and microplastics;
- 5) Successful implementation of the Clean Seas Campaign;
- 6) Increased coordination with and amongst partners.

Travel

Missions and travel will be demand based and funded from the programme. During the first year, the Junior Professional Officer will go on a minimum of 3 missions. Other travels related to the implementation of the programme most likely happen based on the demand and need.

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during first year of assignment US\$ 10,000

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during second year of assignment US\$ 10,000

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during third year of assignment (if applicable) US\$ 10,000

Training and Learning Elements

Training will be an important part of the Junior Professional Officer assignment, and the incumbent will be requested to take various mandatory UN training as well as periodical training related to the content of the work. In addition, to on the job training the Junior Professional Officer will have access to language training, computer training Performance Appraisal training as well as substantive (environmental) training courses including the Training of Trainers on Assessment and Monitoring of Marine Litter and Microplastics which the incumbent will participate in to thereafter support its implementation. The Junior Professional Officer will also be required to travel to conferences and workshops related to marine litter.

Learning elements:

After one year the Junior Professional Officer is able to: understand technical issues in relation to marine litter, write assessment reports, assess project proposals, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate job-descriptions and project documents, and monitor progress in solving problems. The Junior Professional Officer will also have increased knowledge of the UN system, contacts in and outside the UN system, understanding multicultural work-environment, and have increased familiarity with UN rules and regulations. In addition, the Junior Professional Officer will be able to facilitate communities of practice and prepare and lead member webinars for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The incumbent will also become familiar with innovation and knowledge management needs for the topic and key partners to engage with on this.

After two years the Junior Professional Officer is able to: write assessment reports, draft project budgets according to UN standards, formulate job descriptions and project documents, develop project documents and technical concept notes, monitor progress in solving problems, formulate remedial action proposals, prepare documentation and facilitate Steering Committee Meetings of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter as well as innovation labs to address emerging issues on marine plastic litter and microplastics. The Junior Professional Officer will also have improved negotiating skills, editing/writing/reporting, and organizational/evaluation skills.

After three years (if applicable) the Junior Professional Officer is able to: assess and write UN programme of work documents, as well as large-scale proposals for marine litter relevant fund raising and coordinate innovation and knowledge management work of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and marine plastic litter and microplastics input to UNEP's knowledge platform.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) e.g. knowledge management, environmental sciences, natural resources. A first-level university degree in combination with four years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Skills/Working experience: Length and type of practical experience at the national, and if so required, at the international level: At least 4 years at the national level, or 2 years at the international level e.g. in sustainable development and implementation of environmental related programmes, projects and activities is required. Any experience in working on marine litter related issues is an advantage. Experience in knowledge management, stakeholder engagement and communication is desirable, Advanced IT skills are desirable. Ability for creative thinking and new ideas is essential.

Languages: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (oral and written) is required.

Competencies

The candidate should have:

- 1) **Good communication skills:** Speaks and writes clearly and effectively in English, listens to others, ask questions to clarify and exhibits interest in having a two-way communication.
- 2) **Technological awareness:** Keeps abreast of available technology, understands applicability and limitations of technology to the work of the Office, actively seeks to apply technology to appropriate tasks and shows willingness to learn new technology.
- 3) **Creativity:** Not bound by current thinking or traditional approaches and seeks to consider new ideas and approaches to problem solving

Living conditions at duty stations

Nairobi has recently been classified by the UN as a "B" hardship duty station. Normal living conditions for developing country in Africa.