United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP

Junior Professional Officer Programme (JPO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country and Duty Station:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of assignment:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that for participants of the JPO-Programme two years work experience are mandatory!

Background information on UNEP and requesting Unit

The United Nations Environment Programme, established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.

UNEP work encompasses the following three components:

1. Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
2. Developing international and national environmental instruments
3. Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment

In response to the first component, UNEP has a mandate to keep under review the state of the environment. Ways of doing this are through the conduct of integrated as well as thematic environmental assessments and to support those by engaging in global environmental monitoring. Simultaneously and often drawing from the assessments,
UNEP develops under 2) tools for governments and stakeholders to use to protect and manage their environment and supports policy changes under 3).

The 2030 Agenda, passed by the UN General Assembly in 2015, is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets which were announced demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. The inclusion of a goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented a significant advancement in the recognition of the sector, and of the complexities and interlinkages that characterize it. Recognizing the importance of integration across the goal, the United Nations custodian agencies for SDG 6 are collaborating under the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, IM6. These agencies include the UN Environment Programme, UNECE, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, and WMO. UNEP is responsible for assisting countries in the reporting on three of the indicators within SDG 6 (6.3.2 on ambient water quality, 6.5.1 on integrated water resources management, 6.6.1 on freshwater ecosystems health).

This opening refers to:

a) the Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater (GEMS/Water) which has a global Member State mandate (UNEA) to support countries in monitoring of ambient freshwater quality and provide capacity development and to provide access to water quality data that enable the development and use of tools and policies targeted to ensure water quality and meeting 2030 Agenda targets at scale.

b) the support to be provided to the World Water Quality Assessment, including nexus scenarios on health, food and ecosystem biodiversity, referred to in UNEP EA/3/Res.10 (2017) a first of a kind global assessment on the state, scenarios, governance and mitigation/adaptation solutions of the world’s freshwater quality in its central role in sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. This includes to support GEMS/Water’s role in demand and supply of water quality information and services in the global consortium, World Water Quality Alliance, and co-design programme implementation overseen and coordinated by UNEP’s Global Environment Monitoring Unit which works with a growing number of over 50 based on voluntary expression of interest from UN Water members, donors and external experts incl. private sector.

c) UNEP’s custodian responsibility in the Integrated Monitoring (SDG 6), IM6, coordinated by UN-Water with 9 international UN agencies and to the work on SDG indicator 6.3.2 on ambient freshwater quality and its implications for water related ecosystems (indicator 6.6.1). The work with member states on ambient water quality in SDG 6 is coordinated by the Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater (GEMS/Water) which supports countries and provides help desk end to end services for monitoring ambient freshwater quality and fostering access to water quality assured data enabling development and use of tools/policies to ensure water quality.

Background/Mandate in detail:
The first United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 2014 requested the Executive Director of UNEP to collaborate closely with member States with the aim of identifying additional key elements of GEMS/Water, such as regional hubs, capacity development programmes, technology support and new services, as appropriate, and to ensure the
necessary resources as reflected in the programme of work and budget for enabling the GEMS/Water Global Coordination Unit in the United Nations Environment Programme to effectively and efficiently operate as the interface between national focal points, GEMStat, the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, GEMS/Water regional hubs and/or support networks and relevant global partners. As of 2015 – with the 2030 Agenda in place - the UNEP GEMS/Water also takes responsibility in leading and coordinating the global monitoring capacity development, services and synthesis of the SDG 6.3.2 monitoring and contributes to SDG 6.6.1.

During the 3rd session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEA, in December 2017 resolution 10 “Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems” was adopted. The most comprehensive resolution addressing the water challenge and the SDG interlinkages. It requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to cooperate with other relevant organizations, including through UN-Water, to develop a World Water Quality Assessment for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session in 2021.

However, the scope in fact can be interpreted easily to go far beyond just a standalone assessment and encompasses emerging pollutants, ecosystem functions incl. biodiversity and – first and foremost in the 2030 Agenda timeframe - looking into a longer-term engagement that addresses the relevance of the water quality narrative in national development agendas and nexus contexts.

The Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater (GEMS/Water), was identified to be the unit responsible for the development of the World Water Quality Assessment and in partnering in consequence it has established a World Water Quality Alliance of expert, donor, country and implementing partners in a co-design process. This Alliance can address water quality in its multispectral challenges and bring the universality of the 2030 Agenda global dimension to national and local relevance – a step, UNEP in isolation, would not have been able to implement.

In summary: The data deriving from SDG 6 and as such from the entirety of the Integrated Monitoring SDG 6, IM6, are a critical task for UNEP and the UN-Water SDG programme and as such form a close pillar for the WWQ-Assessment and Alliance and thus the 2030 Agenda success.

Role of the incumbent and rational:
The incumbent of this JPO post will be a critical and needed team member of the Science Division’s Global Environment Monitoring Unit. He/she will complement the coordination team in UNEP headquarters. He/she will work, with a special focus on the unit’s activities regarding water quality data in general and the SDG indicator 6.3.2 in particular, and towards promoting and supporting countries in regular reporting on their progress in achieving the water quality related targets of the 2030 Agenda. Crucial aspects are the application of the SDG monitoring methodology, open access data policies and the links between GEMStat, UNEP’s global water quality database. Crucial will also be to support country level engagement on the SDG helpdesk.

In the global WWQ-Alliance the incumbent will be instrumental in assisting in the global coordination of GEMS and SDG inputs to and receiving support from the Alliance with multiple partners inside and beyond the UN-Water membership, research entities and donors. He/she will assist UNEP and partners in workshops, guidance on innovation and
co design processes with stakeholders in countries. He/she shall engage in the development of data and water quality products for operational services in national and regional cases by elaborating of the interlinked dimensions of water quality in the nexus with health food, ecosystems and biodiversity as well as emerging pressures. This builds into the assessment process and into developing a global typology demonstrating the universality of the Agenda process and monitoring in national development incl. linking to the UN-Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (https://undg.org/document/united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework/).

He/she will liaise with the UN Statistics Division, and the World Environment Situation Room. The Situation Room includes geo-referenced, remote-sensing and earth observation information integrated with statistics and data on the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The JPO will be liaising across the divisions with the Freshwater Ecosystems Unit in Ecosystems Division which oversees the overall coordination of the monitoring of the three SDG 6 indicators UNEP is responsible for. He/she will report to the Science Division and where appropriate to the UNEP Chief Scientist Office.

**Supervision**

**Content and methodology of the supervision**

Type of the supervision:

- The Global Environment Monitoring Unit in Nairobi will introduce the JPO to the role and activities of UNEP in the field of data (e.g. GEMS/Water), assessments and the role of the World Water Quality Assessment and Alliance programme and the Integrated Monitoring (UNEP’s custodian role) in SDG 6;
- The Chief of the Big Data Branch will introduce the JPO in UNEP’s knowledge and informational management portal World Environment Situation Room, its role in assessments and the underlying open access data policies in place or to be established on country level
- The Head of the Freshwater Ecosystems Unit will brief the JPO on UNEP’s work within the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, and other freshwater related activities in the organization’s Programme of Work (PoW) and UNEP’s Freshwater Strategy.
- The JPO will be given background materials to familiarize himself/herself with the GEMS/Water history and status, the recent resolutions and the future operational model and partners. He/she will also receive relevant information on UNEP’s water quality activities and related decisions. Core will be to link of the WWQ-Assessment and Alliance and UNEP’s water quality activities in a policy and nexus context as well as the SDGs process in its entirety.
- The Project Manager/Coordinator of the WWQ-Alliance (and GEMS/Water) in collaboration with colleagues in the Big Data Branch and partners in the Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch will introduce the programme to the JPO. This will ensure the terms of reference are reflective of the variety of interlinkages and synergy in data and processes and that the incumbent can prepare a workplan for the Performance Appraisal System (e-PAS) - including the setting of learning and training objectives for career development.
• The first supervisor will have regular meetings with the incumbent giving guidance for problem solving and assistance in identifying experience opportunities.
• The workplan will be reviewed after the first six months. The JPO will be expected to carry out assignments more independently after the review.
• There will be an annual e-PAS evaluation for the JPO. This will be first done by the first reporting officer, i.e. the direct supervisor, the second reporting officer. Supporting comments can be asked from other relevant staff and colleagues internally and externally as seen mutually beneficial and shared with the donor.

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Fostering the 2030 Agenda Water Goal and UNEP’s multiple mandates by assisting the Global Environment Monitoring System GEMS/Water programme. Through this and related assignments supporting the World Water Quality Assessment and the Integrated Monitoring Initiative in providing bottom up services to countries and institutions regarding SDG indicator 6.3.2. This includes to work with countries in promoting individual open data access policy and supporting water quality data access through GEMStat as well as defining and developing information for operational services. Embedded in this will be the task to strengthen the linkages between WWQ-Alliance and its assessment process globally and in countries (use cases) and the UNEP and UN-Water water quality activities and in turn linking to policy and GEMS/Water.

Specific tasks that the JPO will contribute to will include:
• Working with GEMStat, UN-Water, the WWQ-Alliance and countries/institutions and the World Environment Situation Room team to enable and support SDG data, data services, access and information flow; working with countries on utilizing/considering water quality data and related assessments (e.g. work deriving from the community of World Water Quality Assessment and Alliance members) in the water, food, and biodiversity/ecosystems nexus policy discussions
• reaching out to countries and institutions such as river basin organisations to contribute to UNEP’s water quality initiatives including the GEMS capacity Development Centre and setting up a global network process for capacity development and hubs/regional networks on relevant scales in workshops, courses and material development, and supporting them to strengthen their normative frameworks and in their efforts of achieving the target on water quality in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
• facilitating the transfer of recommendations drawn from the analysis of GEMS/Water data, WWQA services and information into policy making processes and working with countries and institutions on utilizing the water quality data and information in reporting on progress towards achieving the relevant target/s in the SDGs.
• promoting use cases on water quality management in discussions among decision makers from different sectors (e.g. agriculture, fertilizer industry and health) for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and their services.
• liaising with other UNEP and UN-Water quality related activities, as well as the GEF and International Waters (IW) learn
• Liaising with UN-Water, external and donor partners in the consortium around the World Water Quality Assessment
- Assisting in its implementation on meeting and work package level with partners, in workshop planning and communication, supporting the UN-Water Expert Group on Water Quality and Wastewater which hosts communication of the WWQA and assist in managerial and administrative tasks
- And outreach including science policy processes such as UNEA

Output expectations
- strengthened water quality data availability and access on country and institutional level contributing to the implementation of the new GEMS/Water and UNEP water quality portfolio including to operationalize SDG and World Water Quality Assessment information on national and regional scales and ultimately the achievement of the target on water quality in the SDGs.
- strengthened SDG 6 water quality data availability and access on country and institutional level and feeding into the World Water Quality Assessment. This is aimed to contribute to the implementation of the UNEP water quality portfolio and ultimately the achievement of the target on water quality in the SDGs.
- bottom up collaboration with countries established and strengthened; the political relevance of WWQ-Alliance and the local 2030 Agenda and – related to that the GEMS/Water and SDG 6 data and information as well as of water quality raised in countries
- identified capacity building needs reflected in the WWQ-Alliance use cases and global elements and align with GEMS/Water capacity building component as well as other general efforts of enhancing capacity to achieve the target on water quality in the SDG (assist GEMS Capacity Development by supporting the design and set up of global network process towards GEMS branded Capacity Development)
- extended participation of partners in a Community of Practice for Water Quality via the World Environment Situation Room in the SDG and development context
- extended participation of partners in an alliance around the World Water Quality Assessment

Training and Learning Elements

After half a year the JPO is familiar with UNEP GEMS / Water and the World Water Quality Alliance and Assessment, as well as the Integrated Monitoring SDG 6 and UNEP’s custodian responsibilities. Data quality assurance and data policy issues and the UNEP Water Quality activities and related processes are familiar to the incumbent and he/she can assist the team incl. consultants in working bottom up with countries and institutions in the water quality and data policy context.

After two years the JPO is able to understand how GEMS/Water, SDG 6 and water quality data and information services feed into assessments and inform policy processes such as the SDGs process on country and global levels.

Like UNEP staff, the JPO will be required to register in relevant training courses. The JPO can also participate in one off-site training course that is relevant to his/her area of work.
Qualifications and experience and competencies

Qualifications and experience
Master’s Degree in water resources management or a field relevant to the environment and/or governance and policy (environmental studies, environmental economics, and environmental governance).

Professional background in legal affairs (e.g. data policy property rights etc.) would be an asset, 2 years work experience at the international level are required.

Competencies
The suitable candidate should have:

• Good communication skills: speaks and writes clearly and effectively in English.
• Teamwork: should be able to work in collaboration with colleagues; solicits guidance where appropriate from his/her superior.
• Creativity: not bound by current thinking or traditional approaches and seeks to consider new ideas and approaches to problem solving.
• Experience in water and water quality related issues would be an asset.
• Participation in Communities of Practice would be an asset
• Proficiency in Windows, MS Office suite and skills in developing animated PowerPoint presentations, excel worksheets and databases.

Bitte senden Sie Ihre Bewerbung direkt an das Büro Führungskräfte zu Internationalen Organisationen (BFIO).

Alle Bewerbungsformalitäten unter www.bfio.de
Stichwort: Junior Professional Officer (JPO)