

Vacancy Announcement - VA-No-2017-017

POSITION INFORMATION	
Post Title:	Legal Expert – Land and Governance
Duty Station:	Nuwara Eliya, Central Province with Visit to Colombo.
Type of Contract:	LICA Grade 09 (Issued by UNOPS on behalf of UN-Habitat)
Number of Positions:	One
Contract Duration:	April to September 2017
Date of Advertisement:	12 March 2017
Date of Closing:	26 March 2017

BACKGROUND AND ASSIGNMENT
<p><u>1. ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT</u></p> <p>The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency responsible for human settlements, mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all; within the overall objective of the United Nations to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The details of the Habitat Agenda, Global Programmes and the Mandate are available in the global web site at www.unhabitat.org and the Sri Lankan web site at www.unhabitat.lk.</p> <p>UN-Habitat operations in Asia include activities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka, under the supervision of the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Fukuoka, Japan.</p> <p>Since its inception in 1978, UN-Habitat has been closely working with the Government of Sri Lanka and implemented projects and programmes under the themes of, (a) Environment and climate change; (b) Post-disaster recovery and reconstruction; (c) Land and housing; (e) Disaster Risk Management; (f) Urban planning and governance; (g) Pro-poor settlement upgrading; (h) Water and sanitation; (i) Community infrastructure; and (j) Social inclusion.</p>
<p><u>2. THE PROJECT</u></p> <p>The project titled ‘Human Development Initiative through Empowerment and Settlement Improvement in the Plantation Settlements in Sri Lanka’ is being implemented by UN- Habitat with funding from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Kothmale and Nuwara Eliya Divisions in the Nuwara Eliya District of the Central province, Sri Lanka. The project is implemented from January to December 2017 to achieve the goal of empowered and resilient plantation communities with satisfactory living conditions, safer settlements, and better access to basic services and improved livelihood skills.</p> <p>The project activities will include providing and improving community infrastructure facilities in plantation settlements and surrounding villages, improving disaster resilience, facilitating the</p>

mainstreaming of plantation settlements into the administrative procedures as per new constitutional and administrative decisions and providing vocational training to increase employability of youth.

One of the key long term outcomes envisaged by the project is the strengthening of governance systems of the plantation community and integrating them into the local governance structure of the country, as they are currently outside the purview of the local governance system. The project will work towards creating awareness and buy-in to improve their access to services, and address some of the root causes of the problems faced by these communities. Given that the project period is short, this project will lay the foundation for this key output, especially in relation to the governance aspects and mainstreaming of this community to society at large.

Land issues in the plantation sector is also a concern, as the majority of families reside in line rooms provided by the plantations, both State and privately owned. Land ownership rests with the State, even in plantations owned by private companies, operating on a long term lease. Recent and potential landslides in populated areas have refocused attention on this issue and the current government has pledged its support to commence a programme of land rights and safe housing for this sector. The project will improve land tenure of the target communities.

The selected candidate will provide his services to address these two aspects of the project.

2. FUNCTIONS /KEY RESULTS EXPECTED

The Legal Expert will be responsible for the achievement of the project outputs relating to the integration of plantation communities into local governance systems and strengthening responsive governance, and to improved land tenure. The Consultant will be under the direct supervision of the UN-Habitat Country Programme Manager and the Senior Advisor to the Project and will work in close liaison with the Deputy Project Managers based in Nuwara Eliya, as well as the team in Colombo.

The Legal Expert will:

Governance

- Review/analyze the legal provisions of the existing governance systems in the plantation sector as well as the newly introduced/proposed changes.
- Advise the project team on how the existing governance mechanism can be improved to manage social, political, economic and environmental risks, as well as improve access to services; ensure transparent and efficient implementation, and promote social inclusion.
- Develop/prepare a draft system of participatory governance and inclusive decision making, in which people and Local Governments share the responsibilities, especially in planning and maintaining community infrastructure developed within the project
- Identify actions that can be carried out within the scope of this project and develop a work plan for better governance in the plantation sector. Consideration to be given on the specific needs of women, youth, elderly and children.
- Act as the key resource person on governance matters and provide training to staff, on regulations, procedures and other constitutional/legal provisions available for mainstreaming the plantation community to the country's governance system.

- Support capacity development of key project stakeholders (e.g. the community and the Regional Plantation Companies (RPC), the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), the Estate Workers' Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS) and/or other community based organizations) on governance related issues
- Act as the focal point for liaison with key Government counterparts on all governance related issues of the HDI project at national, district and divisional levels.

Land

- Review/analyze the land tenure mechanisms and procedures and concerns of the Regional Plantation Companies, the Local Authorities, the CBOs and other stakeholders
- Advice on the best way forward on appropriate actions for improved land tenure for the plantation communities, with emphasis on rights of vulnerable groups.
- Identify actions to develop a work plan for improved land tenure to be carried out within the scope of this project and advice and assist the project team on carrying out the appropriate actions.
- Liaise with the RPC, PHDT, National Building Research Organization (NBRO) and other relevant authorities to obtain appropriate clearances on land matters.

General Responsibilities

- Ensuring the compliance of the project activities with the project objectives and ensure timely delivery of activities at the field level.
- Provide advisory inputs on governance and land tenure issues to the project team.
- Provide inputs to the required progress reports, project performance reports and the project final report
- Prepare a paper/s based on the project learning on improving governance and land tenure in the plantation sector for a national workshop.
- Undertake any additional duties assigned by the Country Programme Manager/Senior Advisor
- Submit a comprehensive report on improvement recommendations for follow-up actions.

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Law, Constitutional Studies or Governance.

- Minimum 10 years of experience working in the areas of democratic governance; or land administration (03 years with Masters' degree only).
- Knowledge and work experience of local administration with specific experience in legal assistance;
- Significant experience in providing practical advice to policy makers; and the ability to work well with senior officers in government, civil society, political parties, and the donor community; and know how to contribute to building national capacity for development;
- Good knowledge of cross-cutting democratic governance issues, such as constitutional reform, rights and inclusion;
- Excellent training and presentation skills.
- Excellent drafting and analytical skills.

Required Years of Work Experience

A minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience with post graduate qualification or 10 years with a first degree.

Language

English and French are the working languages for the UN Secretariat. Fluency in English and at least one national language is required.

Other skills

Ability to work under pressure against deadlines and to work efficiently in a multi-national team. Good interpersonal skills and cross-cultural awareness. Ability to work with minimum supervision, with efficiency, competence and integrity. Computer literacy in MS Office is essential.

Remuneration

In compliance with UNOPS/UN-Habitat Policy.

How to Apply:

Sri Lankan Nationals meeting the essential requirements of the position are invited to apply by submitting the following documents to employment@unhabitat.lk

- Letter of Interest which clearly indicates the Vacancy Announcement Number (i.e. **VA-No-2017-017**).
- Updated and Signed UN Personnel History Form P.11 (P11 is attached to this VA) and also available in <http://www.unon.org/docs/P11.doc>
- And finally your email's subject should be Application for the Post of Legal Expert – Land and Governance VA No 2017-017.

Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in rejection of the application.

Due to the large number of applications expected, only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8).