



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
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**FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE**

## **Vacancy Announcement (VA) No 2024-06**

<b>I. POSITION INFORMATION</b>	
Post Title:	Environment and Climate Change Officer
Duty Stations:	Colombo
Type of Contract:	LICA Grade 8 (Issued by UNOPS on behalf of UN-Habitat)
Number of Positions:	1
Supervisor:	Deputy Country Programme Manager
Contract Duration:	12 months with possible extension
Date of Advertisement	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Date of Closing:	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2024

### **BACKGROUND**

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](http://www.unhabitat.org) and the Sri Lankan web site at [www.unhabitat.lk](http://www.unhabitat.lk).

UN-Habitat operations in Asia include activities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka, under supervision of the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Fukuoka Japan.

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.

UN-Habitat is currently implementing projects in the Western, Northern, Central, and Uva regions. The work encompasses managing a variety of medium to large-scale projects related to housing, infrastructure, environmental initiatives, and climate change adaptation.

UN-Habitat is currently implementing a project aimed at enhancing climate resilience in Mullaitivu district. The project focuses on improving infrastructure, promoting climate-resilient agriculture, and boosting the socio-economic outcomes of vulnerable communities. These initiatives involve civil construction, capacity-building training, and are implemented through community contracts in collaboration with implementing partners.

Additionally, UN-Habitat is implementing a flagship program called Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE UP), which aims to increase the resilience and socio-economic prosperity of urban poor communities in the Global South by 2030. This project focuses on enhancing interregional knowledge exchange and strengthened capacities of national and local governments to understand local multi-layered risks and vulnerabilities, developing appropriate response options, and

strengthening capacity of national and local governments to develop appropriate bankable climate action projects in support of the most vulnerable urban communities. As part of this project, two Sri Lankan cities have been selected, including Colombo Municipal Council and Wattala-Mabole Urban Council.

The project has two expected outcomes:

1. Enhanced interregional knowledge exchange and strengthened capacities of national and local governments to understand local multi-layered risks and vulnerabilities (climate change, biodiversity & urban) and develop appropriate response options.
2. Strengthened capacity of national and local governments to develop appropriate bankable climate action projects in support of the most vulnerable urban communities

The overall role of the Environment and Climate Change Officer is to mainstream climate change into UN-Habitat's programming including vulnerability assessments and mapping including data collection, analysis and developing climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions and support to access climate financing including identifying funding sources and calls, and support development of concept notes and proposals.

## **RESPONSABILITIES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

The Environment and Climate Change Officer, under the direct supervision of the Deputy Country Program Manager and guided by the RISE-UP team, will undertake the following primary responsibilities to achieve the requested outputs

### **1. Data Collection and Analysis**

Gather relevant climate, urban, socio-economic, and environmental data from various sources, including field surveys, government reports, and scientific literature.

Analyze data to assess current and future climate risks and vulnerabilities at city and community levels.

### **2. Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment**

- Identify and analyze vulnerability hotspots.
- Develop vulnerability profiles for selected cities and urban poor communities in Sri Lanka.
- Apply methodologies for multilayered vulnerability assessment, considering factors such as exposure and sensitivity, to map vulnerable populations, critical infrastructure, and at-risk ecosystems in urban areas.

### **3. City Climate Resilience Action Plans**

- Prepare City Climate Resilience Action Plans and bankable gender-responsive climate resilience projects for selected cities in Sri Lanka.
- Produce detailed reports, strategic policy planning documents, and project proposals and concept notes summarizing assessment findings and recommendations.

### **Additional Responsibilities for the Adaptation Fund Project and Infrastructure Initiatives:**

The Environment and Climate Change Officer will also play a crucial role in coordinating field operations with executing entities and line departments, ensuring adherence to environmental standards, providing specialized technical support, and ensuring compliance with Adaptation Fund (AF), UN-Habitat, and Environmental and Social Safeguard Systems (ESSS) regulations.

- Ensure strict adherence to established standards, rules, and regulations of the Adaptation Fund, UN-Habitat, and ESSS.
- Develop and execute ESSS action plans, regularly evaluating the environmental and social impacts of project initiatives

The Environment and Climate Change Officer will represent UN-Habitat at the UNSCDF ORG 3 group and other forums on climate change and environment.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **Education**

A Master's degree in Climate Change, Climate Science, Geography, Urban Planning, Environmental Engineering or any other field relevant to the assignment. A relevant Bachelor's degree with 8 additional years of experience relevant to the position would be accepted in lieu of the advanced degree. Membership in a professional body will be advantageous

#### **Work Experience**

- Proven experience in climate resilience, including conducting climate change risk and vulnerability assessments.
- Strong analytical skills with a demonstrated ability to prepare high-quality reports.
- Demonstrated experience in geospatial data collection and analysis.
- Demonstrated experience in stakeholder engagement and capacity building.
- Experience with projects in the physical environment within Sri Lanka.
- Experience in development of concept notes and proposals pertaining to climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Strong communication skills, particularly in writing of proposals
- Experience in sustainable development and working with the United Nations is desirable.

#### **Required Years of Work Experience**

For Master's Degree holders 2 years of work experience and for Bachelor's Degree holders 8 years of work experience is required.

#### **Language Skills**

English and French are the working languages for the UN Secretariat. Fluency in English and national language of the duty station required. Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; proficiency in Sinhala or Tamil is an asset.

## **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](mailto:employment@unhabitat.lk)

- Letter of Interest which clearly indicates the Vacancy Announcement Number (i.e. VA No 2024-06).
- 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>  
<https://www.unfpa.org/resources/p11-un-personal-history-form> and finally, your email's subject should be Application for the Post of Environment and Climate Change Officer (VA) No 2024-06.

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).*