

## **ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia**

### **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Please respond by: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

#### **I. Position Information**

City Associate/Officer, Biodiversity – (1 Position)

#### **II. Organizational Context**

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of more than 1,750 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future. By helping our Members to make their cities sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, biodiverse, resource-efficient, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure, we impact over 25% of the global population. ICLEI works with local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

ICLEI's South Asia secretariat is presently operating from New Delhi, India. In its result based approach, ICLEI brings cities around the world together to build partnerships and share techniques to promote participation and the effectiveness of environmental protection through local-level initiatives. ICLEI help cities strengthen their technical capacity, improve awareness of sustainability issues among elected representatives, administrators and citizens, provide information, and develop a greater capacity for cities to deliver basic services in the most sustainable manner.

ICLEI's substantive focus is helping cities build and share solutions to the challenges of:

- climate change
- urban biodiversity
- water and air pollution
- waste management
- energy
- built environment
- sustainable transportation
- disaster management
- environmental management systems

Projects related to thematic areas of urban biodiversity, energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate change, mobility, built environment, sustainability management, water, green growth etc are executed by ICLEI South Asia through support from several donors (BMU, British High Commission, European Commission, GIZ, SHAKTI Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, USDOS, USAEP, USAID, etc) and ministries in Government of India and various state government funding sources.

### **III. Details of main projects to be involved with**

Supported by the Swiss Re Foundation, this project is aimed at undertaking a feasibility assessment for developing a green grey infrastructure solution to increase flood resilience of Kochi. The project will focus on one canal in Fort Kochi. Another project, supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nature Safety (BMU), is a multi-country project (INTERACT- Bio), which aims at strengthening biodiversity management at all levels of governance and facilitation of cooperation between national and sub-national authorities for ecosystem management in urban regions. In India, the model city is Kochi (where most of the work is being carried out). Mangalore, Panaji, Gangtok, Srinagar and Jammu are the observing cities.

### **IV. Position Description**

**City Associate/Officer, Biodiversity:** 1 Position

**Supervisor:** Programme Coordinator (Biodiversity)

**Duty Station:** Kochi, Kerala

**Duration:** One Year

**Type of Contract:** Full Time Employee

#### **Functions**

The City Associate will be based in Kochi and work to support the execution (liaising with authorities, data collection, research, project management, advocacy) of the Kochi Canal project.

- Work with Kochi Municipal Corporation and other city government agencies and assist in project activities in Kochi
- Develop and manage strong relationships with the city government and key stakeholders and partners in the community
- Undertake studies in the canal(s) in Fort Kochi to document existing biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Undertake focus group discussions with the communities living along the canals in Fort Kochi
- Support in socio-economic profiling
- Assist in development of GIS based maps of the canals in Fort Kochi
- Assist in identification of relevant nature-based solutions for canal restoration

- Provide support and assistance in all aspects related to organizing and executing project events such as training programmes and workshops
- Assist with developing and maintaining content for project website, and keeping project information updated on the ICLEI South Asia and related websites
- Ensure close co-ordination with local governments/executing agencies, support provision of top-quality services and facilitation of knowledge building and management
- Undertake project related travel, if required
- Provide project updates to managers or superiors on a regular basis

## **Competencies**

Candidate should:

- Have an educational background in biodiversity conservation / natural resources management
- Have excellent language skills:
  - Malayalam language skills- both spoken and written
  - English language skills - both spoken and written
  - Knowledge of speaking skills in Hindi will be an asset
- Have prior experience of ecological restoration of canals and waterbodies
- Have hands on experience of working on QGIS and undertake mapping exercises
- Be able to set and consistently meet realistic and challenging targets; be able to manage circumstances in order to achieve those targets to meet project objectives
- Be able to work independently and pro-actively
- Have an ability to work under tight deadlines and under pressure
- Have an ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously
- Have excellent leadership skills and ability to negotiate with various stakeholders
- Be able to travel extensively
- Have an enthusiastic attitude and willingness to learn, adapt and take on a wide range of tasks

## **In addition**

- Experience working in Kochi or in Kerala
- Understanding of administrative, technical and political background of urban areas in terms of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, climate change, including knowledge of short-term quick wins measures and long term policy level intervention to achieve and showcase results of project to various stakeholders at the local level
- Experience of working closely with municipal/state/central government or other related organizations on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, understanding of implementation issues at city level and required support from state and national government in this regard

- Have good understanding of issues pertaining to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and natural resources management and how they affect/impact India

### **Recruitment Qualifications**

Masters or higher degree in Ecology/ Biodiversity Conservation/Restoration Ecology/ Wildlife Sciences/ Environmental Sciences/ Forestry

### **Experience**

Minimum 2-3 years of relevant, post qualification, professional experience at organisation (s) working in the biodiversity conservation sector in a similar capacity

### **Computing Skills**

Use of MS office, GIS, AutoCAD and analytical software

## **V. Contact Information**

Interested candidates are requested to submit CV (along with one-page note describing your suitability for the position and two references) by email to [iclei-southasia@iclei.org](mailto:iclei-southasia@iclei.org) and [monalisa.sen@iclei.org](mailto:monalisa.sen@iclei.org)

**Closing Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**