

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Permafrost Capacity Building Expert within the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO project.

Responsible Unit: SC/ATA

Duration: 17 March 2025 – 31 December 2025

In the framework of the GEF/UNDP/UNESCO Cryosphere project on “Strengthening the resilience of Central Asian countries by enabling regional cooperation to assess glacio- nival systems to develop integrated methods for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change”, under the overall authority of the Director of the UNESCO Almaty Office and the direct supervision of the Project Manager (PM), the Contractor shall contribute to the Component 3 of the aforementioned project.

I. TASKS:

Task 1. The contractor will support the Regional Permafrost Specialist in strengthening the capacity of national partners in permafrost observations and modelling from local to regional scale.

1. Help to coordinate and plan regional permafrost research.
2. Help to broaden the network of permafrost researchers in the different Central Asian countries and promote exchange within the national and international permafrost science community.
3. Assist regional specialist in organising workshops, summer schools, trainings in data analysis and modelling and field measurements. This includes analysis of borehole temperature, ground surface temperature, geophysical data, particularly ERT and RST measurements.
4. Participate at international and national conferences to represent Central Asian permafrost research.
5. Continuously improve proficiency by participating in training sessions and workshops in permafrost research in close collaboration with the University of Fribourg to gain knowledge about permafrost observations and modelling approaches. The focus of potential trainings lies in following techniques: permafrost kinematics, InSAR and photogrammetrical applications and permafrost modelling.

Task 2. The contractor will organize independently capacity building events for young researchers/university students, including:

1. Identify suitable Universities, research institutes and units for capacity building activities and develop a strategy for the capacity building.
2. Present permafrost research and its importance at different Universities in Central Asia: present current permafrost research activities in Central Asia, incl. applied measurement and modelling approaches, first results, as well as current knowledge gaps and future needs.
3. Organization of workshops on theoretical and practical aspects of mountain permafrost research, including hands-on field exercises on different geophysical techniques for the detection and mapping of permafrost as well as state-of-the-art data processing and interpretation.
4. Identify and encourage students and young researchers with a potential to become a specialist in permafrost research.
5. Promote and organize internships at established institutions doing permafrost research in Central Asia to establish long-term internship programs with the obvious institutions, in order to regularly offer internship positions and involve these students in daily permafrost work, i.e. field work and data processing.
6. Supervise permafrost-related internships and BSc and MSc theses.
7. Help to develop permafrost monitoring outreach material: leaflets, policy briefs etc.

II. Expected Outputs and Deliverables:

1. A comprehensive workplan with the timeline on the implementation of the tasks assigned.
2. Capacity building reports: workshop and capacity building activities, documentations and manuals.
3. Reports on planned and completed field trainings and in-class / online training, teaching material.
4. Contribution to training and student supervision.
5. Assistance with the outreach material.
6. A technical report on works conducted.

III. Required Skills and Experience:

- At least a higher-level education degree in the related field of studies.
- More than six (6) years of experience in the related field of work.
- Relevant experience in Central Asia.
- Relevant experience in research.
- Relevant experience in capacity-building would be an advantage.

Note to the applicants:

Please send the following documents to apply:

- An up-to-date curriculum vitae.
- A statement indicating how the candidate's qualifications and experience make him/her suitable for the assignment.
- An indication of the approach the candidate would adopt to carry out the assignment, including any inputs that may be required from UNESCO.
- The overall cost of the assignment should be expressed as an overall lump-sum. Any travel and subsistence requirements should be indicated separately.

The proposals and any supporting documents should be in English. The proposals should be submitted by e-mail not later than **10 April 2025** to a.kulzhabayeva@unesco.org.

Should you be interested in this work assignment, please send us your written proposals by the indicated deadline. We would be also grateful for further sharing of this call with other suitable candidates through your professional networks.