



Applications are invited for the position of:

Legal Intern with SPC-SOPAC EU Deep Sea Minerals Project (Suva)

Minerals, and the metals they contain, are an essential component of the modern high-tech world. Global stocks of raw mineral resources continue to dwindle in absolute terms, leading to increased pressures to access previously unattainable mineral deposits - including those lying at the bottom of our oceans. Promising deep sea mineral resources have been found in the Pacific, and there has been increasing interest in the region (a) to permit mining companies to explore and exploit potential mineral deposits within Pacific Island States' jurisdictional waters, and (b) to sponsor mining companies to conduct activities in the area beyond national jurisdiction (the International Seabed Area).

International law is clear that robust legislation should be in place to regulate any such deep sea mining ventures. There is little precedent, and the challenge will be to establish regional and national regimes that are work-able and encourage investment in Pacific Islands, but which sufficiently protect the environment and ensure the sustainable use of ocean resources.

The EU-funded Project ("*Deep Sea Minerals in the Pacific Islands Region: a Legal and Fiscal Framework for Sustainable Resource Management*"), launched in 2011, will run until 2014 and will provide technical assistance to 15 participating Pacific Island States, with a focus on supporting them to develop and implement comprehensive policy and legislative frameworks to manage deep seabed mineral developments.

Countries participating in the Project are: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. There are numerous other interested partners to the Project, from international organizations, academia, private sector, and civil society.

The Project has four Key Result Areas:

- (1) Development of a Regional Legislative and Regulatory Framework ('RLRF') for offshore minerals exploration and mining;
- (2) Formulation of national policy, legislation and regulations;
- (3) Building national capacities; and
- (4) Effective management and monitoring of offshore exploration and mining operations.

As part of its capacity-building function, the Project now invites applicants from Pacific Island nationals with a background in law, to undertake a placement as a Project intern.

This is an exciting opportunity to work in an emerging area of international law, involving aspects of environmental law, public and regulatory law, the law of the sea, shipping law, mining law and commercial law.

As the Project's Legal Intern, you will be working closely with the Project's Legal Advisor in delivering the four key areas identified above.



You will be required to undertake complex legal research and analysis, and drafting. You will also be required to maintain positive relationships with stakeholders and community members, both through email correspondence and face-to-face dealings at various work shops or consultations.

Position Description

The successful candidate will:

- Assist Project Legal Advisor and Project Legal Assistant in her work including with the drafting of national legislation, regulations, and policy documents;
- conduct thorough legal research;
- draft letters of advice, file notes, discussion papers, information brochures and summaries;
- provide proof-reading and editing assistance to Project documents;
- correspond with relevant stakeholders;
- attend meetings, teleconferences and web conferences;
- liaise with the Project Manager, Legal Advisor and Project Assistant regularly;
- assist the Project Assistant in maintaining the Project's website; and
- assist with any other ad hoc tasks arising.

This position would suit a junior lawyer, graduate or final year law student seeking to gain experience in a new and exciting area of international law. The successful candidate will be efficient, hard-working and enthusiastic, and must possess excellent written and oral communication skills, superior research abilities.

The Project encourages citizens of the 15 States participating in the Project to apply.

The internship vacancies are available on a rolling basis. The duration is negotiable depending on candidate availability, but 2 months is preferred.

Please note that the Project can upon request cover airfares and accommodation for successful candidates who are nationals of one of the 15 Project countries but who are not resident in Suva. A per diem payment to cover costs will also be made to all interns.

How to Apply

Please supply (i) a CV and (ii) a covering letter explaining why you are interested in this position and what you consider you could bring to the role, to Ms. Hannah Lily (Project Legal Advisor) on hannahl@spc.int.