

Job Description: Cultural Program Officer for the project of Restoration and Opening to the public of the National Palace in Addis Ababa.

Project Description :

The National Palace was the residence of Emperor Haile Selassie and later became the official residence of the President of the Republic of Ethiopia. Together with the surrounding gardens, it constitutes a heritage site of great importance and significant cultural, historical, and aesthetic interest (including Art Deco furniture from the 1950s, a collection of vintage automobiles, etc.).

The project is part of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's proactive policy to develop emblematic tourist sites in the heart of Addis Ababa and aims at a memorial transition concerning the imperial period.

The French Development Agency (AFD), in collaboration with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Culture, is supporting Ethiopia in the project to restore and open the National Palace of Addis Ababa to the public.

The project coordination is managed by Expertise France, which works directly in support of the Administration of the Palaces of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDREPA), the project owner. Renowned experts are mobilized to support the project's implementation. This expertise includes a Chief Architect of Historical Monuments (ACHM), the Public Establishment of the Palace, Museum, and National Estate of Versailles (EPV), the Ministry of Culture, the Museum of Decorative Arts (MAD), the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN), the Henri Malartre Automobile Museum, as well as historians, researchers, and specialists in Ethiopian studies.

In 2023, the technical assistance mission expanded, and the teams are gradually being reinforced to assist the Ethiopian Palace Administration in the development of additional galleries/museums: the Collections Gallery/Museum and the Palace Vehicles Gallery/Museum.

Program description :

The Cultural Program Officer will ideally be based directly in Addis Ababa but could also be based in France with periodic field presence (a defined number of days at the beginning of the contract with a minimum of 10 working days on-site per month).

With the support and under the responsibility of the Expertise France headquarters in Paris, the Cultural Affairs Officer will assist the Project Coordinator in Addis Ababa with the technical implementation of the project. They will be specifically responsible for supervising activities related to the future Collections Gallery. This includes the coordination and operational implementation of activities related to museography, restoration, relocation of collections, defining the scientific and cultural program (PSC), and developing multimedia activities.

Position within Expertise France:

Operations Directorate

Hierarchical Relationship: Head of the Culture and Heritage Division

Cross-functional Relationships: Project Coordinator, Project Officer, etc.

The general objective of the Cultural Program Officer is to provide the necessary technical support to the National Palace teams for the creation of the Collections Museum and to contribute to the coordination of the project's scientific and cultural activities as a whole.

To achieve this, the candidate will need to interact daily with all the expertise involved in these activities and with the Palace museum team. They must act as a facilitator between the Palace museum team and other project stakeholders to ensure the proper execution of the planned activities. They will rely on the project's scientific committee, responsible for providing knowledge and content on the Palace collections and validating the project's museum productions.

To successfully carry out these missions, the candidate should ideally possess strong skills in conservation and museology. They should also demonstrate expertise in the preservation and safeguarding of cultural artifacts and historical sites. Additionally, experience in implementing conservation strategies and techniques would be appreciated.

Due to the linguistic and cultural diversity of the project partners, the ability to interact effectively with individuals from various cultural backgrounds is essential to promote mutual understanding and maintain cohesion within the team.

Key functions and responsibilities :

- Follow and support the cultural and scientific activities related to the various galleries of the Palace Museum to ensure their alignment with the project objectives;
 - Collaborate closely with curators and the Palace administration teams on activities related to the creation of the Collections Museum (selection and management of collections, inventories, digitization, archiving, scenography, etc.);
- Contribute to the dialogue and coordination among the different stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of activities;
- Assist the Palace museum teams in implementing and adopting the recommendations of the mobilized French experts;
- Support the development of skills and capacities of the Palace teams by monitoring daily activities and organizing necessary training;
- Work with the Project Coordinator and Project Manager to recruit the appropriate expertise (developing terms of reference for activities, conducting interviews, and handling contractual arrangements);
- Organize and accompany French expert missions to Addis and ensure follow-up on the deliverables provided;
- In collaboration with the Project Coordinator, maintain an adequate level of information among the experts regarding project progress.

Desired Profile:

- Master's degree in fields such as culture, heritage, history, anthropology, project management, or other relevant areas for the mission;
- Proven experience in cultural, heritage, and/or museum sectors;
- Demonstrated experience in project coordination;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;

- Proficiency in English;
- Proficiency in Amharic or other Ethiopian languages would be appreciated;
- Autonomy, organizational skills, and anticipation;
- Excellent ability to adapt to multidimensional political and socio-economic contexts;
- Knowledge of Ethiopia and/or significant experience in a country within the region will be highly valued.

Additional information:

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and/or France (with regular on-site missions)

Duration: 6 to 10 months

Salary: According to the candidate's profile

Start date: July 2024

This position offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in a dynamic project environment. If you are passionate about cultural expertise and possess the necessary skills and qualifications, we encourage you to apply.