Position: Principles for Responsible Banking - Impact and Sustainability Expert & Implementation Support Manager

Apply here by 14th April 2020.

Department/Office: United Nations Environment Programme, Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)

Duty Station: Geneva

Duration: The initial duration of the contract is six months (subject to renewal), from 01 June to 30 November 2020.

Type: Full-time

About UNEP FI:

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is the strategic partnership between UN Environment and about 300 banks, insurers and investors. For over 28 years UNEP FI has been shaping and driving the international sustainable finance agenda, setting global standards and growing a global network of leading financial institutions. Through its work-streams and regional activities, peer learning, methodology development, training and research, UNEP FI carries out its mission to help the financial industry align with and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and with that take on the crucial role it must play in achieving a sustainable future.

UNEP FI’s Banking Team is responsible for the initiative’s work with its over 200 member banks in more than 60 countries around the world. This includes overseeing and supporting the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Banking.

About the Principles for Responsible Banking:

On 22nd September 2019, UNEP FI member banks representing USD 47 trillion and with that over a third of the global banking industry officially signed and launched the Principles for Responsible Banking together with UN Secretary General Guterres. The Principles for Responsible Banking guide the change towards a new, sustainable global banking industry that takes on a key role in helping society to achieve its goals for a sustainable future. With these Principles, banks commit to strategically align their business with and scale up their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate. The Principles are supported by a strong implementation framework that
defines clear accountabilities and requires each bank to set, publish and work towards ambitious targets and report publicly on their positive and negative impacts and progress in implementing their commitments. Banks that are not in line with their commitments can be removed from the list of signatories.

About the Position

UNEP FI provides support to and closely works with the Signatories in their implementation of the Principles for Responsible Banking. As the framework has just been launched, this includes foundational work with the banks and relevant internal and external experts to jointly develop detailed guidance and tools for key mechanisms of the Principles for Responsible Banking including impact analysis, target setting and reporting. One important aspect of supporting successful implementation of the Principles will furthermore be setting up the structures for and supporting peer learning as well as documenting emerging good practices and case studies and updating the guidance materials over time. Finally, UNEP FI is looking to start developing a capacity building program/approach once the first year of implementation is completed.

As Implementation Support Manager joining UNEP FI’s growing Banking Team, you would be co-responsible for closely working with the Signatories of the Principles for Responsible Banking to develop guidance and tools, facilitate peer learning and with that support the effective and successful implementation of the Principles around the world.

Specific tasks and responsibilities will be agreed with your colleague with whom you will be co-responsible for this work based on needs, skills and preferences. They would include:

- Working with Signatory banks and internal/external experts to develop detailed guidance on / tools for conducting portfolio impact analysis.
- Working with Signatory banks and internal/external experts to develop detailed guidance and potentially common metrics/approaches for target setting in various impact areas.
- Working with Signatory banks and internal/external experts to address common challenges in fulfilling the reporting & self-assessment requirements.
- Planning and facilitating webinars as a platform for knowledge sharing and learning amongst Signatory banks.
- Working with the Sustainable Banking Expert that conducts the annual review & feedback meetings with all Signatory Banks to identify & document emerging good practices and case studies.
- In collaboration with UNEP FI’s regional coordinators, setting up the structures for and facilitating peer learning across and within regions.
- Developing and conducting full-day in-person workshops attached to key UNEP FI events. These should serve to provide deep-dives into implementation guidance, tools and good practices /case studies as well as provide a space for structured peer learning, exchange of experiences and joint discussion of challenges.
- Working with Signatory banks and internal/external experts on addressing further needs relevant to the successful implementation of the Principles for Responsible Banking.
Your Qualifications and Experience:

You have substantial experience (min. 5 years) and expertise in one or several of the following areas:

- analyzing and assessing environmental and social impact and developing strategies/providing recommendations and guidance to private/public sector entities on how to address negative and increase positive impact.
- developing new tools, approaches, guidance materials in collaboration with other experts and stakeholders.
- developing and facilitating structured peer learning programs.

You have an in-depth understanding of how banks’ business activities relate to and influence environmental and social outcomes. You have experience working in or with banks and a good grasp of their different business areas, products & services and internal structures and processes. You are well acquainted with current issues and developments related to sustainable banking globally and regionally.

You are reliable and deliver consistently high quality within agreed timeframes. Your colleagues, external partners and constituents/clients trust you because you treat them with respect and you follow through on your commitments towards others. You are a well-organized self-starter and have proven that you can move multi-stakeholder processes and initiatives forward at a good pace. You can motivate others and develop inclusive structures and processes that cater to the needs of your clients/constituents and create ownership among those you work for and with. You are a team player, understand your work as contributing to an overall objective. You can adapt your behavior and style of communication to different cultural contexts.

You are fluent in English, as this is UNEP FI’s working language. Beyond English, fluency in other languages, especially other official UN languages, is highly desirable.

You are motivated and driven by the purpose your team and organization are working towards and the impacts they are trying to achieve. When deciding if you would like to apply for this position, please consider that the remuneration for this position may be lower than what would be offered in the financial industry for a position requiring similar qualifications and experience.

Interested – please apply here by 14th April 2020.

Questions? Contact Simone Dettling, simone.dettling@un.org