



Request for a Volunteer from a university

The “**University Volunteer Network**” provides human resources and knowledge resources, through qualified and experienced volunteers from partner universities. These volunteers serve for six months in developing countries.

The Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) acts as the coordinating university of the Spanish University Volunteer Network currently comprising 24 Spanish universities. To date, 198 assignments have been carried out. This year, it is envisaged to field 45 volunteers to work towards achieving the MDGs in selected areas of Youth, education, health, environment and Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) **with a relevant youth component**. The volunteers are to primarily support host institutions supported by UNV’s MDG Facility as well as UN Projects and Programmes engaged in MDGs-related activities. The focus of these assignments will be on capacity building.

Instructions for completing this form

- The form should be completed as detailed as possible bearing in mind that the Terms of Reference are aimed at student volunteers and not professionals.
- Host organizations should retain a copy of the form.
- The goal of this form is to provide pertinent information on the qualifications requested in order to recruit the best possible candidate for this student volunteer assignment.

Requesting Organization

Name: EcoPlata Programme

Describe the role/mandate of the organization

Year of establishment: 1995

Size of organization: Executive Board integrated by four Ministries, six Local Governments and four Schools from the University of the Republic.

Number of staff: EcoPlata Management Unit integrates with six people.

Other pertinent information: Ecoplata is a long term programme, aimed to strength the institutions, the scientific community and the public opinion, in the topics related to Rio de la Plata Coastal Area Integrated Management. It has been created with an agreement between the Ministry of Housing, Land use management and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Tourism and the University of the Republic. In addition, other national and local institutions participate in the Ecoplata Programme. Ecoplata participate in the United Nations Joint Project “Development of instruments for the

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United Nations Volunteers

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UN Volunteers is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Environmental and Territorial Monitoring” executed by UNESCO and UNEP. In addition EcoPlata is a counterpart of UNDP and is being supported by this agency with several projects. Finally, as part of the Ministry of Housing, Territorial and Environment, EcoPlata will also be involved in a United Nations local Development Project. This is a pilot project at a global level that aims to create resiliency to Climate Change and low carbon emission in the Uruguay metropolitan area. The mentioned actions contribute to the United Nations Reform, called “Delivery as One”. Uruguay is currently a pilot country for the United Nations reform and the only Latin American country participating officially in “Delivery as One”.

Also EcoPlata has been incorporating into their practices the Millennium Development Goal 7 “Ensuring environmental sustainability”, which aims to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Field of activity: On the basis of the vision and working hypothesis, the Program pursues the following objective: “to support the search for evidence and its validation in order to contribute to the social and productive development of the Uruguayan coastal zone based on the conservation of coastal ecosystems by developing a governance model sustained by a participatory integrated management system”. EcoPlata is implementing five thematic areas:

- Governance – to promote a model that allows for an inter-institutional structure in decision making relative to coastal issues.
- Coastal Zone Vulnerability – this policy leads to generate knowledge on the ecosystems and the man-environment interaction along the coast and to identify the main degradation risks in coastal ecosystems.
- Sustainable Productive Development – to evaluate conditions for a productive development in local community priority areas on the basis of availability of local natural resources.
- Coastal Infrastructure – will help evaluate the situation of the infrastructure existing along the coast and the medium-term infrastructure construction projects.
- Coastal Environmental Information System - will allow the availability of information to support decision making on coastal management issues.

Traditionally, the mandate relative to protection and sustainable use of coastal ecosystems was in the hands of several institutions responsible for specific aspects of the administration, management, supervision and protection of the geographic space and resources in the coastal zone, with little coordination or integration of effort across the competent institutions. EcoPlata will proceed with the analysis, recommendation and promotion of a governance model that allows for an inter-institutional structure to take place in decision making relative to coastal issues, with the participation of the community and encouraging volunteer engagement, as a key actor in order to strength social participation. This process will be supported by the Program as an interdisciplinary producer of necessary information for coastal management.

Moreover, EcoPlata has established a partnership with the Climate Change Unit from the Ministry of Housing, Land use management and Environment for the execution of the GEF funded project Implementing Pilot Climate Change Adaption Measures in Coastal Areas of Uruguay. The project objective is to put in place adaptive land planning and coastal management policies and practices to enhance the resilience of Uruguay’s coastal ecosystem to climate change. In this context and bearing in mind that adaption to climate change is in a great extent a local process, it is necessary to engage all the stakeholders in such process. To this end, a participatory model will be design in coordination with other ongoing programs and projects that are working on the coastal zone.

Is your organization assisted/funded by other organizations/companies: Yes. UNDP, IDRC, UNESCO and the Ministry of Housing, Land use management and Environment from Uruguay.

Terms of Reference

Assignment title: Participatory Processes for Integrated Coastal Management and Climate Change Adaptation.

Expected starting date: October, 2010.

Preamble:



As a United Nations Volunteers (UNV) assignment, this post is based on the values of free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, which are the foundations of volunteerism. Volunteering brings benefit to the individual volunteer. It makes important contributions, economically, as well as socially. It contributes to creating social cohesion and capital, through helping to build trust and reciprocity among citizens.

The United Nations Volunteers is the UN Organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism and mobilization of volunteers. It serves the causes of peace and development through enhancing opportunities for participation by all peoples. It is universal, inclusive and embraces volunteer actions in all its diversity.

Volunteerism is diverse and is embedded in all cultures and traditions. In this context, as a United Nations Volunteer you are encouraged and expected to relate to local volunteerism and to be identified with the concept. You are expected to regard your national colleagues as peers and together uphold trust as volunteers among yourselves and within the communities and the organization you are assigned to.

Detailed Terms of Reference: (Please describe in as much detail as possible the services required from the university volunteer(s) and how his/her/their contribution will fit into the organization's plans.)

Support is requested in the following fields:

Volunteers in **education** can provide assistance in teaching and tutoring. Typically, volunteers in **ICT4D** can help to develop and set-up websites and networks as well as databases, e.g. through the provision of training. In Panama, volunteers have helped to promote capacity building activities in the area of disaster-related education activities. University volunteers in **health** have helped to educate and raise awareness among Cape Verdian mothers in HIV/AIDS. In the area of **environment**, they have developed information material in disaster-related management.

The volunteer will be supporting the following area(s) of the MDGs.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Improve maternal health</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Achieve universal primary education</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Combat HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Promote gender equality and empower women</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Ensure environmental sustainability</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reduce child mortality</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Develop a global partnership for development</i> |

Detailed description of the tasks to be carried out by the University Volunteer:

Under the direct supervision of Ecoplata Coordinator the UNV volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Get acquainted with the set of Ecoplata and the Ministry of Housing, Land use management and Environment lines of work and procedures;
- Get acquainted with local civil society, sustainable development and climate change actions of United Nations in Uruguay;
- Collaborate in the creation and design of a participative model of coastal area management, by systematizing experiences and good practices related to local needs;
- Contribute to the strength and follow up of networks and other local experiences of integrated coastal management in the framework of climate change adaptation;
- Support the design of training activities addressed to local actors and decision makers to allow them to take informed decisions on Coastal Integrated Management;
- Contribute to the involvement and commitment of new actors through focused interventions at local level, in the coastal environment improvement and climate change adaptation;



- Liaise with United Nations agencies and projects, as well as with other national institutions as the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its acronym in spanish), in order to establish synergies with the activities described above.

In addition UNV Volunteers are encouraged to further promote volunteerism and engage in volunteering activities:

- Strengthening their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and taking active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark IVD);
- Getting acquainted with and building on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
- Reflecting on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking, including participation in ongoing reflection activities;
- Contributing articles/write-ups on field experiences and submitting them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Assisting with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UNV volunteers;
- Promoting or advising local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encouraging relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

Assignment target (i.e. capacity building impact): Participatory Processes for Integrated Coastal Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Required Volunteer qualifications:

- **Education:** University degree in geography, sociology, social work or equivalent.
- **Language:** Good written and spoken Spanish is a must. Fluency in English (written and spoken).
- **Specific skills in requested area (e.g. related to youth, education, health, environment or ICT4D):** Experience in public participation, environmental projects and in climate change of integrated coastal management.
- **Computer/software skills:** Strong knowledge and use of modern information technologies.
- **Additional skills:** Good interpersonal communication, analytical and strategic planning ability, ability to communicate and work with groups; Willingness and ability to work in multi-stakeholders, intercultural, religious environment with a wide cross-section of partners; Autonomy and organization, willingness to travel within the country.

Other Information: All below fields are mandatory prior to clearance

A) Visa

- Please specify type of visa needed for nationals from Spain to enter your country:
X No visa or visa upon arrival at airport

B) Accommodation

- **Location of assignment:** Montevideo
- **Nearest airport:** International Carrasco Airport
- **Type of accommodation¹:** To be confirmed
- **Address:** to be confirmed

¹ The accommodation for university volunteers has to be compliant with the Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards (MORSS). It needs to be cleared by the UN Field Security Officer **prior** to the fielding of the volunteers.



- **Approximate monthly cost of accommodation:** Conditions of service include monthly volunteer living allowance intended to cover housing, basic needs and utilities, equivalent to US\$ 683.
- **Security provision and approximate costs:** n/a
- **Means of local transport for the volunteer:** Bus and taxi transportation are available in Montevideo.
- **What other facilities will be offered to the university volunteer(s)?**

C) Local transportation

- **Means of local transportation for the volunteer:** bus
- **Approximate monthly cost:** the cost of a regular bus ticket is around US\$ 0.90

D) Security provision

- **Security provision and approximate costs:** n/a

E) Other

- **What other facilities will be offered to the university volunteer(s)?**

The volunteer will work primarily in Montevideo. However, he/she will be required to visit communities along the country. Work will be performed both with urban communities (including marginal urban areas) and in rural areas. Work and living environment will therefore be multicultural. At Montevideo, the volunteer will share the office with the Ecoplata team and will be provided with a desk and a computer.

When is need to go outside Montevideo, Ecoplata will provide the volunteer with contacts from the local population, as well as transportation and lodging.

Signature on behalf of requesting Organization

(Signature)

23/04/2010

(Date)

General Assignment Criteria

Capacity Building and Sustainability

The assignment(s) must clearly focus on capacity building (of local beneficiaries) e.g. on the application of ICT. An assignment which concentrates on e.g. ICT product delivery, like set up of a network or creation of a website, without close collaboration with local staff does not qualify. The target group of a particular assignment should be able to independently apply e.g. ICT for their purposes after the university volunteer leaves. Ensuring sustainability, further promoting volunteerism, as well as raising awareness about the Millennium Development Goals in the country of assignment are key criteria, which are common to all assignments.

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Host Organization and Living Conditions

The host organization needs to demonstrate that it will provide a necessary enabling environment for the university volunteers so they can be productive from the start and sustain a positive performance throughout their assignment. This includes the provision of necessary (e.g. computing) equipment and if need be, connectivity. It also includes the identification of a direct supervisor for the volunteer.

After completion, please return this questionnaire to your UNV Country Office by fax, mail or email. Thank you!