



## University volunteer TERMS OF REFERENCE: ToR 32

### **Preamble:**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development, and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, University volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, University volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as University volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

The “**University Volunteer Network**” provides human resources and knowledge resources, through the recruitment of students 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 27 Spanish universities. To date, 155 assignments have been carried out. This year, it is envisaged to field 45 volunteers to work towards achieving the MDGs in selected areas of education, health, environment and Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D). 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.

**1. UNV Assignment Title:** Environmental Monitoring Assistant for National and Coastal Indicators System

**2. Type of assignment:** International University Volunteer

**4. Duration:** 6 months

**5. Location, Country:** Uruguay

**6. Expected starting date:** July, 2009

**7. Brief Project Description:** United Nations Joint Project “Development of instruments for the Environmental and Territorial Monitoring” executed by UNESCO and UNEP. The volunteer will support the second component of this project referring to the collection and analysis of socio-economic and environmental information. This component is led by the Ministry of Environment and by Ecoplata Programme. The outcome of this action will feed the Spatial Data Infrastructure that is being developed in the first component of the project. By involving several United Nations Agencies and National Institutions, this project represents a contribution 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”.

**8. Host Agency/Host Institute:** Ecoplata Programme

**9. Organizational Context:** Ecoplata is a long term programme, aimed to strength the institutions, the scientific community and the public in general, in the topics related to Rio de la Plata Coastal Area Integrated Management. It has been created with an agreement between Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Tourism and the University of Republic. In addition, other National and Local Institutions participate in the Ecoplata Programme.

**10. Description of Duties:**



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

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

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

- Get acquainted with the set of indicators proposed for Uruguay under the United Nations Joint Project "Development of instruments for the Environmental and Territorial Monitoring" and with the ILAC environmental indicators initiative managed by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).
- Review presentation and communication modalities for sustainability indicator systems and observatories.
- Assist in the structure design for the indicator system.
- Assist in the definition of communication requirements for each particular indicator and for the whole system.
- Assist in the research and compilation of information related to each indicator.

In addition University 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;
- Assisting with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived University 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.
- Contributing articles/write-ups on field experiences and submitting them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;

#### 11. Results/Expected Output:

- A document with the suggestions of new communication modalities for sustainability indicator systems and observatories.
- Draft document, as contribution to the whole system of environmental indicators
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for development during the assignment

#### 12. Qualifications/Requirements:

- **Education:** university degree in geography, economy, sociology or equivalent
- **Language:** fluent control of Spanish and basic control of English
- **Specific skills in requested area:** Environmental topics. Knowledge of environmental statistics or indicators will be an asset
- **Computer/software skills:** good of knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, databases); Geographical Information System (GIS); Statistics packages



- **Additional skills:** good interpersonal communication

**14. Other information:**

**A) Visa**

Please specify type of visa needed for nationals from Spain to enter your country:

- Tourist visa (if yes, return ticket needed)**
- No visa or visa upon arrival at airport**
- Visa before departure**

**B) Accommodation**

- **Location of assignment:** Montevideo
- **Nearest airport:** Montevideo
- **Type of accommodation:** dormitory in a family/student house or apartment for one person with furniture included
- **Address:** to be defined two weeks before the arrival
- **Approximate monthly cost of accommodation:** 350 USD
- **Security provision and approximate costs:** there is not any special security provision to be taken in Uruguay. The centre of the capital and the other main towns and the interior of the countries are generally safe.
- **Means of local transport for the volunteer:** bus and taxi
- **What other facilities will be offered to the University volunteer(s):**

**C) Local transportation**

- **Means of local transportation for the volunteer:** bus and taxi
- **Approximate monthly cost:** 80 USD

**15. Conditions of Service**

Monthly volunteer stipend (intended to cover housing, basic needs and local transport), equivalent to EUR 683 per University volunteer; visa fees, life and health insurance; return airfares.

**Date**