

UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

KENR001757--UN Youth Volunteer in Global Environment Monitoring

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, UN 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, UN 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 UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

General Information

Country of Assignment	Kenya
Host Institute	United Nations Environment Programme
Volunteer Category	International Youth
Number of Volunteer	1
Duration	12 months
Expected Starting Date	15-02-2021
Duty Station	Nairobi [KEN]
Assignment Place Remark	

Living Conditions

The post is located in the Nairobi duty station of UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Living conditions are those of a developing country. Kenya is a unique country and UNEP serves a unique function as the lead UN agency on the environment. Kenya provides for an interesting and enriching environment, but also requires a mature level of cultural awareness, as well as more stamina and commitment than elsewhere to make life comfortable and affordable. Therefore, flexibility and the ability and willingness to live and work in harsh and potentially hazardous conditions, involving physical hardship and little comfort, are essential.

As this is an International Youth UN Volunteer assignment, the UN Volunteer will be responsible for arranging his/her own housing and other living essentials.

Assignment Details

Assignment Title	UN Youth Volunteer in Global Environment Monitoring
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Organizational Context & Project Description

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established in 1972, is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP's Science Division is responsible for analyzing the state of the global environment, providing early warning information and assessing global and regional environmental trends to catalyze and promote international cooperation and action on the environment.

The work of the Global Environment Monitoring Unit is at the heart of UNEP's mandate to keep the global environment under review. Yet with the emergence and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the upcoming Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the global community has agreed to apply a holistic systems-oriented approach, which includes taking the work closer to in-country solutions and implementation. This implies that rather than just reviewing and recording/disseminating information regarding the state of the environment and its change over time, focus shifts continuously towards context of drivers, pressures and responses in a dynamic feedback appraisal. The utility of and maintaining and/or restoring Natural Capital and relating ecosystem services gets in the mix of environmental monitoring and informing green and blue economy transition including from transformation of private sector and business models at large. As a consequence, much more than in the past UNEP, as any other UN Agency, needs to embrace the concept of working in partnerships and close to the science as well as in-country stakeholders.

For UNEP's Global Environment Monitoring Systems (GEMS), primarily looking at water quality (GEMS/Water), but also increasingly at air quality (GEMS/Air) and oceans (GEMS/Oceans), the challenge is to move to a more holistic monitoring and to do so also in often data scarce surroundings. By covering interlinkages and feedbacks at a system scale, e.g. water-health-waste-ecosystems-food-energy nexus; air quality-urban health-transport-energy-climate nexus, the GEMS shall be able to engage in partnerships, incl. ODA, civil society and private sector at country level. The objective is to provide for "end-to-end value chains" of data, quality assurance, analytics and actionable products based on a co-design process at relevant scales, e.g. regional, national, municipal and system level (e.g. transboundary waters, regional seas, cities etc.).

GEMS, as a nucleus within targeted Alliances of relevant actors of society, such as the "World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA)", and its practical Use-Cases, will continuously observe, analyze and report, not just on state of the environment, but the dynamic feedback with drivers and responses and the implications for natural capital and ecosystem services. By drawing on a multiplicity of data-sources and their harmonized scientifically rigorous analysis ranging from Earth Observation incl. satellites, via advanced modelling and AI to citizen science engagement and complementing in-situ data GEM shall allow for additional functionality such as hotspot mapping, rapid response assessment where required and focusing on prevention and providing risk and resilience indicators. Required will be the integration of data from the TEEB concept into the SEEA and sharing with private sector information on relevant stocks and flows assessments and their implications for supply chains, just to illustrate. The latter may entail developing observation and indicators/proxies of and for societal and sectoral action incl. adaptation and mitigation, such as nature-based solutions and preparedness. In this way the GEMS become a utility for maintaining natural capital, while allowing additional focus on national development needs and priorities to foster resilience and enable informed risk management response.

GEMS products need to interface with intervention priorities of global ODA communities and reflect national needs articulated in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) by the respective Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams within the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF - formerly UNDAF). Environmental monitoring shall inform the dynamic science-policy-action interface by drawing on a multiplicity of data sources and by engaging across all relevant societal actors and the UN to accelerate the achievement of globally and regionally agreed goals and elucidate risks as much as possible.

The project will provide an initial concept and road map for the transformational global environmental monitoring systems in the UN and beyond. It will draw in the transdisciplinary views and competence of the "World Water Quality Alliance" as well as practical in-country and regional experience and the bring together the innovation concepts incl. Natural Capital accounting to provide a mapping of partners and relevant actors. As such it will address SDG 6 on water as an example and drawing on over 30-year experience in GEMS/Water, but will also link to multiple other SDGs, including SDG 17 (enabling "Partnerships for the Goals").

Sustainable Development Goals

6. Clean water and Sanitation

Task description

Under the direct supervision of the Head of Global Environment Monitoring Unit, Science Division, and in close collaboration with the Unit team on respective existing and evolving Global Environment Monitoring Systems (freshwater; air; oceans), the UN Volunteer will

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undertake the following tasks:

- The UNV will contribute to conceptualizing an end-to-end value framework for Global Environment Monitoring Systems (GEMS), in service of societal sustainability transformation.
- Engaging actively in the World Water Quality Alliance workflows. This includes the “engagement platform” convening relevant players of society into the SDG-Water quality dialogues and solutions around the nexus, on private sector relevance and risk management, on urban water quality risks and opportunities and outreach, to name a few. This will also include working with UNEP and external assets e.g. in TEEB and UNDESA on the implications of compromised Natural Capital driven by water quality issues for sustainable development and to define relevant data flows to be included in monitoring.
- He/she will assist in the WWQA Use-Cases working with in-country stakeholders on actionable water quality product development and piloting. This mix of practical involvement at scale and conceptual innovation work will culminate in the provision of a publishable concept paper and Theory of Change designed for a revision of the GEMS programmes and local agenda relevance of the WWQA, as outlined below in the project description. The assignment includes introduction and induction to the GEM Systems as well as practical WWQA workflows by practitioners and senior staff, as well as Alliance partners and for the UNV to provide Gap/Response analysis as part of the problem definition for the GEMS upgrade and relevant partnership.
- He/she will be taken through the data, assessment and SDG monitoring work and review utility and strength and weaknesses incl. consideration of the recent global pandemic situation as an example for system vulnerability and how to develop GEMS rapid response utility. The induction will include outreach e.g. via the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and elucidate aspects of capacity development, as well as introducing a matchmaking function for GEMS e.g. with ODA communities.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are required to:- Strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and take active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark International Volunteer Day)- Be acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country- Provide annual and end of assignment reports on UN Volunteer actions, results and opportunities using UNV’s Volunteer Reporting Application- Contribute articles/write-ups on field experiences and submit them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.- Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UN Volunteers- Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

Results/Expected Outputs

- As output of the assignment, the UN Volunteer will gain in depth practical and theoretical experience and be instrumental in supporting the development of a first draft of the revision concept, to be finalized with staff and partners, relevant for country and ODA levels.
- The development of capacity through coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training, when working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counter-parts, including Implementing Partners (IPs); • Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) perspective is systematically applied, integrated and documented in all activities throughout the assignment • A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for peace and development dur-ing the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed

Qualifications/Requirements

Required Degree Level Master degree or equivalent

Education - Additional Comments

Master’s degree in a relevant area, e.g. international relations, social/political sciences, environmental sciences, environmental management, environmental economics and natural capital, data management or other related area.

Required experience 3 months

Experience Remark

- Demonstrated interest and/or experience (ideally one year) in project coordination and/or management, research coordination, managing stakeholder networks or other relevant programmes at the national and/or international level.
- Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;
- Experience working in the UN or other international development organization is an asset.

Language

- English (Mandatory) , Level - Fluent

Area of Expertise

- Other development programme/project experience Mandatory

Area of Expertise Requirement

Age requirement

UN Youth Volunteers should be between 18 and 29 years old throughout the duration of their service.

Learning Expectations

Learning and development are a central part of the UN Youth Volunteer's assignment and take place before, during and after his or her assignment in the field. Ideally, offering diverse opportunities for learning and development aim to strengthen the volunteer's skills and competences, improve the quality of the assignment and keep the volunteer's motivation high.

Learning elements for the UN Youth Volunteer include the development of:

- Professional skills: including specific competencies and reflection on assignment-related abilities; and on-the-job skills such as time management, problem solving, team building; and career preparedness such as interview skills, CV preparation, job searching.
- Inter-personal skills: including communication and listening skills; multi-cultural awareness and cultural competency; and conflict and stress management.
- Volunteering-related skills: including leadership; civic responsibility; and engagement and active participation.

Beyond the learning opportunities provided by UNV, the host agency will support knowledge and capacity development in the technical areas that are relevant to the UN Youth Volunteer's assignment. The host agency will provide, at its expense, UN Youth Volunteers with equal opportunity to participate in training courses and workshops offered to its personnel.

Need Driving Licence No

Competencies & Values

- Communication
- Integrity
- Planning and Organizing
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Working in Teams

Conditions of Service and other information

Condition of Service

[Click here to view Conditions of Service](#)

Conditions of Service:

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Note on novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

The rapidly changing nature of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has placed significant and increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement of people across the globe, within countries and across borders. Such restrictions make it very difficult for international UN Volunteers to begin their assignments at their assigned duty station and UNV cannot guarantee assignments will proceed as normal.

Candidates for international UN Volunteer assignments during this period may be exceptionally granted alternative working arrangements to work from their place of recruitment until restrictions are lifted. This is at the discretion of the host entity. Candidates proceeding to interview are recommended to discuss the likelihood of travel and possible alternative arrangements with the host entity. If selected, candidates should carefully consider the circumstances before accepting UNV's offer.

In cases where the UN Host Entity partner has requested the UN Volunteer to perform their assignment remotely, the Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) and related entitlements to be paid may be adjusted to the temporary duty station from where the UN Volunteer has been requested to work if requested by the UN Host Entity.

The contract lasts for the period indicated above with possibility of extensions subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

A UN Volunteer receives a Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) per month and is paid at the end of each month to cover housing, utilities, transportation, communications and other basic needs. The VLA can be computed by applying the Post-Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) to the VLA base rate of (choose from the drop down menu the appropriate rate here): US\$1,321. The VLA base rate is a global rate, while the PAM is country-specific and fluctuates on a monthly basis according to the cost of living. This method ensures that international UN Volunteers have comparable purchasing power at all duty stations irrespective of varying costs of living. The PAM is established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and is published at the beginning of every month on the ICSC website <http://icsc.un.org>.

For UN Volunteer entitlements, kindly refer to the link <https://vmam.unv.org/calculator/entitlements>

In non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, international UN Volunteers receive a Well-Being Differential (WBD) on a monthly basis.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are provided a settling-in-grant (SIG) at the start of the assignment (if the volunteer did not reside in the duty station for at least 6 months prior to taking up the assignment) and also in the event of a permanent reassignment to another duty station.

UNV provides life, health, permanent disability insurances as well as assignment travel, annual leave, full integration in the UN security framework (including residential security reimbursements).

UN Volunteers are paid Daily Subsistence Allowance at the UN rate for official travels, flight tickets for the final repatriation travel (if applicable). A resettlement allowance is paid for satisfactory service at the end of the assignment.

UNV will provide, together with the offer of assignment, a copy of the Conditions of Service, including Code of conduct, to the successful

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Supervision, induction and duty of care of UN Volunteers

UN Volunteers should be provided equal duty of care as extended to all host entity personnel. Host entity support to the UN Volunteer includes, but is not limited to:

- Introductory briefings about the organisation and office-related context including security, emergency procedures, good cultural practice and orientation to the local environment;
- Support with arrival administration including setting-up of bank accounts, residence permit applications and completion of other official processes as required by the host government or host entity;
- Structured guidance, mentoring and coaching by a supervisor including a clear workplan and performance appraisal;
- Access to office space, equipment, IT support and any other systems and tools required to complete the objectives of the assignment including a host entity email address;
- Access to shared host entity corporate knowledge, training and learning;
- Inclusion of the volunteer in emergency procedures such as evacuations;
- Leave management;
- DSA for official travel, when applicable;
- All changes in the Description of Assignment occurring between recruitment and arrival or during the assignment need to be formalized with the United Nations Volunteer Programme.

Disclaimer

United Nations Volunteers is an equal opportunity programme which welcomes applications from qualified professionals. We are committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture.