UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

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, 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.

1. Assignment Title: Community Volunteers -ESA Project
2. Host Entity: UNDP
3. Volunteer category: UN Community Volunteers
5. Number of UN Volunteers: 03
6. Duration (in months): 07 Months
7. Possibility of extension*: Yes
   *Dependent on continuation of mandate, availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance; there is no guarantee of assignment extension.
8. Assignment Family Status: The assignment is without family
9. Expected Starting Date: 04/08/2020
10. Organizational Context and Brief Project Description:

    The Project "Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystems services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas" is a GEF funded project, implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources (MEWR) and supported by UNDP. The Project would contribute to safeguarding globally significant biodiversity on production lands of high interest for conservation. This phase of project will greatly strengthen the country's ability to safeguard
biodiversity outside protected areas in special Environmentally Sensitive areas, through a new land use governance framework. Project activities will provide a vehicle for safeguarding globally significant biodiversity on multiple-use lands of high conservation values.

The primary objective of this project is "To operationalize Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance, outside Protected Area network ". To achieve this objective, the project has two major outcomes; (1) national enabling framework strengthened to designate and manage ESAs and (2) biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at sites identified in the Kala Oya river basin.

The Project adopts Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) as a tool to manage a landscape or seascape from an ecological perspective. The ESA sites identified within Wanathawilluwa Divisional Secretariat Division (DSD), Ipalogama DSD and Galnewa DSD. The project demonstrates ESA implementation at pilot sites.

11. Sustainable Development Goals: 15. Life on Land

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.

12. Description of Tasks:

Under the direct supervision of ESA Field Coordinator -Puttalam/ Anuradhapura, the UN Community Volunteer will:

• Understand the ESA concept and operational model
• Facilitate EDOs in ESA level project interventions
• Facilitate community consultation sessions with the support of relevant community groups to gather local knowledge on biodiversity and threats to biodiversity, make
awareness on socioeconomic and environmental values of biodiversity around them, and to explore and share responsibilities on conservation of biodiversity

- Facilitate the development/ implementation process of Co-Management Plan with relevant communities
- Facilitate in social mapping, wealth ranking, seasonality mapping and tools and transact walk
- Participate for KIlIs with village level government officers such as Grama Niladhari, co-op societies, private sector, NGOs
- Support in documentation of consultation sessions with the EDOs and records collected and documented for the project.
- Engage with community representatives who are selected for divisional ESA community forum to conduct regular meetings, other divisional officers and UNDP field representatives
- Engage in monitoring of the progress and completion of tasks and progress update to Field Coordinators/ PMU
- Any other related tasks as may be required or assigned by the supervisor.

Furthermore, UN Community Volunteers are encouraged to integrate the UN Volunteers programme mandate within their assignment and promote voluntary action through engagement with communities in the course of their work. As such, UN Volunteers should dedicate a part of their working time to some of the following suggested activities:

- 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 self- reports on UN Volunteer actions, results and opportunities.
- 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.

13. Results/Expected Outputs:

- Implementation of ESA Co-management plan
- Community is actively engaged in ESA Community Monitoring Plan
- Community is actively engaged in ESA sustainability plan
- 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 Environment sustainability and development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed

14. Qualifications/Requirements:
b) Language skills

Good command of the working language is required.

c) Competencies and values:

- **Professionalism**: demonstrated understanding of operations relevant to UNDP; technical capabilities or knowledge relevant or transferrable to UNDP procedures and rules; discretion, political sensitivity, diplomacy and tact to deal with clients; ability to apply good judgement; ability to liaise and coordinate with a range of different actors, especially in senior positions; where appropriate, high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; resourcefulness and willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented;

- **Integrity**: demonstrate the values and ethical standards of the UN and UNDP in daily activities and behaviours while acting without consideration of personal gains; resist undue political pressure in decision-making; stand by decisions that are in the organization’s interest even if they are unpopular; take prompt action in cases of unprofessional or unethical behaviour; does not abuse power or authority;

- **Teamwork and respect for diversity**: ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; excellent interpersonal skills; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, mixed-gender environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity; sensitivity and adaptability to culture, gender, religion, nationality and age; commitment to implementing the goal of gender equality by ensuring the equal participation and full involvement of women and men in all aspects of UN operations; ability to achieve common goals and provide guidance or training to colleagues;

- **Commitment to continuous learning**: initiative and willingness to learn new skills and stay abreast of new developments in area of expertise; ability to adapt to changes in work environment.

- **Planning and organizing**: effective organizational and problem-solving skills and ability to manage a large volume of work in an efficient and timely manner; ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor (own) work; ability to work under pressure, with conflicting deadlines, and to handle multiple concurrent projects/activities;

- **Communication**: proven interpersonal skills; good spoken and written communication skills, including ability to prepare clear and concise reports; ability to conduct presentations, articulate options and positions concisely; ability to make and defend recommendations; ability to
communicate and empathize with staff (including national staff), military personnel, volunteers, counterparts and local interlocutors coming from very diverse backgrounds; capacity to transfer information and knowledge to a wide range of different target groups;

- **Flexibility**: adaptability and ability to live and work in potentially hazardous and remote conditions, involving physical hardship and little comfort; to operate independently in austere environments for protracted periods; willingness to travel within the area of operations and to transfer to other duty stations within the area of operations as necessary;

- Genuine commitment towards the principles of voluntary engagement, which includes solidarity, compassion, reciprocity and self-reliance; and commitment towards UNDP mission and vision, as well as to the UN Core Values.

15. **Conditions of Service for UN Community Volunteers**

The duration of the assignment is indicated above with the possibility of extension subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

The current Conditions of Service for national UN Volunteers will apply to UN Community Volunteers as an interim measure until a full review of the national Conditions of Service is undertaken, with the following modifications as per Interim Policy Note on UN Community Volunteers.

UN Community Volunteers are expected to be recruited locally and work within their community, they are therefore not expected to travel to the duty station and are not eligible for a settling in grant. In addition, UN Community Volunteers should not require reintegration back into their locales upon completion of their service. Therefore, there is no entitlement to a resettlement allowance.

The applicable volunteer living allowance of LKR, 36,670 is provided monthly to cover housing, utilities and normal cost of living expenses. Life, health and permanent disability insurance are included.

Furthermore, in non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, a Well-Being Differential (WBD) will be provided monthly.

**Description of Assignment prepared by the Project Manager/UN Entity:**

[Sugandhi Samarasinghe, Technical Coordinator, UNDP]

**Description of Assignment approved by UNV Country Office Team/Support Office:**

[Sharmalee Jayasinghe, Country Coordinator, UNV]
How to Apply

These posts are open only to Sri Lankan nationals

Submit your CV with a cover letter (in English/Sinhala) and telephone/email contact information by email to info@unvlk.org clearly indicating the post title “Community Volunteers - ESA Project” in the subject line of the email, or by post to the address below clearly indicating the post title on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and ensure it reaches the address below by 10th JULY 2020 (Friday).

United Nations Volunteers
202 – 204 Baudhaloka Mawatha
Colombo 07

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for an interview.

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, age and culture.