

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.

General

Assignment title:	Green and Blue Development Programme Support Officer
UN Host Entity:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Country of assignment:	Samoa
Duty station:	Apia, Samoa
Family / non-family duty station:	Family Duty Station
Volunteer category:	International UN University Volunteer
Duration:	5 months
Expected starting date:	20 September 2023

Sustainable Development Goals:

8. Decent Work and Economy Growth

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

13. Climate Action

14. Life Below Water

Details

Organization mission and objectives

The UNDP Multi-Country Office (MCO) based in Apia, Samoa serves four Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, by co-designing and implementing innovative and impactful policy and programming solutions in line with global, regional, national and local priorities, and advocating for their issues and positions. The MCO works closely with its sister MCO based in Fiji to implement the outcomes on Planet, Prosperity and Peace of the new UNDP Multi-Country Programme Document (MCPD) for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories 2023-27, and deliver on the corporate UNDP Offer to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-25 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Assignment context

The Green and Blue Development Programme Support Officer will assist the MCO's Environment and Climate Change Unit with research, programming support and advocacy of their Japan-funded portfolio of projects and pipeline development.

Green Economy (50%)

50% of the UNV's assignment will be allocated towards programming and advocacy support to ECCU's green economy portfolio, focusing on the decarbonization of Samoa's transport sector.

According to Samoa's latest National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2020), the road transport sector, largely dependent on fossil fuels, is the country's largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO₂), accounting for 27.4 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With vehicle ownership having increased by 69.5% since 2013 along with the subsequent increase of fossil fuel imports to meet the growing demands of this sector, green

transformation of land transport is ever more urgent to pivot towards zero-emission economic development. Samoa's ocean dependence and heavy reliance on the shipping industry as its national economic lifeline, similarly deems necessary the decarbonization of the maritime transport sector with the need to explore cost-effective low-carbon technologies and operational improvements to fuel efficiency and emissions reductions that advance the achievement of Samoa's enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Japan-funded project *Climate Action Pathways for Island Transport (CAP-IT): Accelerating the Decarbonization of Samoa's Land and Maritime Transport Sectors*, a component of the regional *Promoting Green Transformation in the Pacific Region towards Net-zero and Climate-resilient Development Project*, aims to promote urgent and inclusive transformation of the land and maritime transport sectors towards decarbonization by accelerating the uptake of electrical vehicles and low-carbon propulsion systems in support of the achievement of Samoa's enhanced NDCs for the energy and transport sector by 2030. This will be achieved through a three-fold approach:

1. Creating an enabling environment through strengthened and gender-sensitive institutional governance, financial, legal, and technical capacities for accelerating the decarbonization of both land and maritime transport systems;
2. Accelerating inclusive decarbonization of the land transport sector with a focus on adoption and imports of electric vehicles and accessible electrification service networks targeting public transport and public service delivery vehicles; and,
3. Introducing and piloting low-carbon outboard motors for Samoa's fishing fleet through a gender sensitive grant mechanism for local fisherfolk and training scheme on installation, operation, and maintenance.

Blue Economy (50%)

The UNV will have the opportunity to work with the Blue Economy team and the Accelerator Lab (AccLab) on co-designing pipeline projects that strategically build on the successes of completed and ongoing Japan-funded blue economy projects. The remaining 50% of the assignment will therefore consist on research support, exploration of strategic partnerships, funding opportunities and engagement with Japanese public, academic and private sector, with a particular focus on circular bio-economies for fish waste and seaweed respectively.

The ocean comprises 98% of the jurisdiction of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PITCs). Countries like Samoa are walking a tight rope between marine conservation and meeting the nutritional and economic needs of its population. Climate change and marine pollution are further compounding these challenges. In response, the Samoa Ocean Strategy 2020-2030 calls for an integrated management for a healthy and abundant future of Samoa's Ocean. This includes focusing on the urgent need to maximize economic benefits from all caught fish and diversify coastal and ocean-dependent livelihoods.

UNDP is developing strategic programmes to translate Samoa's Ocean Strategy into action. Japan is a key partner supporting UNDP's Blue Economy pillar through the Japan Supplementary Budget (JSB) 2020, which supported community aquaculture of sea grapes (*Caulerpa racemosa*), *limu* in Samoan, and the expansion of the Multi-Species Hatchery to diversify aquaculture and mariculture stocks. UNDP Acclab is also a winner of the 2023 SDG Japan Innovation Challenge, where UNDP is collaborating with Think Sea Corp, a Japanese social enterprise, to create leather from fish waste as part of its 100% fish utilization concept to generate value-added products from fish waste and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Task description

Under the direct supervision of the Assistant Resident Representative for the Environment and Climate Change Unit the UN University Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

Research and External Relations:

- Contribute to active research on replicable Japanese-led innovations in relevant sectors and support partnership engagement with respective organizations, including private sector engagement where relevant;
- Participate in office-wide brainstorming and pipeline portfolio co-development of research-based concept ideas;
- Assist with market research and drafting of specifications for project-related goods, namely innovative technology, in support of sustainable procurement initiatives, and value-added products.

Programme Support:

- Contribute towards systematic monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities against the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, including but not limited to the organization and reporting of site visits, regular documentation and inputs towards the Results Oriented Analysis Report;
- Support knowledge management, including but not limited to systematic documentation and filing of project-related information and/or documents;
- Support the development and implementation of South-South exchanges, including publications, webinars, events, *inter alia*, on Samoa's green/blue development; and,
- Assist the preparation, logistics and facilitation of project-related meetings, consultations, workshops, trainings and/or events.

Communications and/or Advocacy:

- Contribute towards project visibility and advocacy through support with content development for blogs, op-eds, social media posts, press releases in English and Japanese, *inter alia*;

- Assist with content development of project factsheets, publications and presentations; and,
- Support English to Japanese translation of project briefs, factsheets, *inter alia*.

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;
- Reflect on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking, including participation in ongoing reflection activities;
- 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.

Requirements

Required education level Secondary Education

Minimum experience 0 years

Area(s) of expertise: Currently studying towards a degree in Environmental Studies, Sustainability Studies, Environmental Engineering, Science and Technology or other relevant field.

Skills and experience description

- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in green and blue economy sectors, including sustainable transport and sustainable fisheries;
- Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;
- Good writing skills in English and Japanese.
- Proficient use of MS Office software package.

Language skills

English mandatory optional
 basic fair working knowledge fluent mother tongue

Japanese mandatory optional
 basic fair working knowledge fluent mother tongue

Competencies and Values

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Client Orientation
- Commitment and Motivation
- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Communication
- Creativity
- Empowering Others
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Judgement and Decision-making
- Knowledge Sharing
- Leadership
- Managing Performance
- Planning and Organizing
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Self-Management
- Technological Awareness
- Vision
- Working in Teams

Driving license needed: **No**

Note: Although a driving license is not a requirement for the position, it is an advantage to have one given Samoa's poor public transport system.

Living conditions

Samoa gained independence in 1962 – the first Polynesian country to achieve this political status. Situated about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii, Samoa is made of nine volcanic islands, two of which - Savai'i and Upolu - make up more than 99% of the land mass. The capital city of Samoa is Apia. The total population of Samoa is 200,000 with a total area of 2,934 square km. The terrain consists of narrow coastal plains with volcanic, rocky, 6 rugged mountains in interior.

Samoa is a bilingual country. Samoan is the main language and English is the second official language. Most government bodies and institutions work primarily in English.

The traditional Samoan way, the *fa'a Samoa*, remains a strong force in Samoan life and politics where family is all-important and elders are highly respected. Each village is made up of extended families that are represented on the village council by a chief (matai). The more western-style parliamentary system in Samoa is highly influenced by traditional social systems and the family, civic and political duties performed by the matai at village level. The country is predominantly Christian.

The economy of Samoa has traditionally been dependent on development aid, family remittances from overseas and agricultural exports. The manufacturing sector mainly processes agricultural products. Tourism is an expanding sector in Samoa.

Apia has good accommodation facilities in terms of the Pacific standard and good road networks. Medical facilities are limited in comparison to developed countries and emergencies are undertaken in New Zealand. Food items and imported commodities are easily available in the market. There is a functioning banking system in the country. Samoa has a warm tropical climate and insect repellents are needed for the nights. Apia has an international airport which is well connected to New Zealand, Australia and Fiji.

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