

United Nations Volunteer position

Plant Protection / quarantine specialist

Country: Maldives

UNV VOLUNTEER TERMS OF REFERENCE

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, UNV 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, UNV 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 UNV volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

1. UNV Assignment Title: Plant Protection/Quarantine Specialist
2. Type of assignment: International UNV volunteer
3. Project Title: Strengthening the Plant Quarantine and Diagnostic Center of Maldives
4. Duration: 12 months
5. Location, Country: Male', Maldives
6. Expected starting date: January 2010 or March 2010
7. Brief Project Description: Currently, there exists an embryonic

plant and animal protection unit located in close proximity to the international airport Male'. Staff is inadequate both in numbers and quality. The Government's intended intervention is to upgrade and strengthen the plant and animal protection and quarantine system as an intrinsic aspect of it thrust towards commercialization and diversification. Past experience has demonstrated the devastating impact of plant pests and diseases in the absence of systems of regulation, control and surveillance. The proposed intervention will institutionalize a package of vigilant, robust arrangements which will mitigate the unregulated and uncontrolled imports of plant and animal produce and products thereby providing a measure of bio-security for agriculture and the environment.

Overall the Volunteer will assist the Ministry Fisheries and Agriculture (MFA) to strengthen the institutional capacity to develop the agriculture sector of Maldives by strengthening plant quarantine and pest/disease diagnostic capability of the Ministry. This will mitigate incursions of new exotic pests, diseases and weeds of agricultural crops and the environment and improve productivity of local farmers. This in turn will contribute to the income and food security of individuals and families whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. A further spin off from this initiative will be the reduced need for additional chemicals with favorable impacts on costs of production.

The Volunteer will specifically assist a the Ministry in developing a self-sustaining quarantine service to facilitate safe trade in agricultural products and assist achieving food security in the Maldives through the implementation and management of a quarantine system of international standard. The project will play a key role in establishing the system as well as building the required human resource capacity to implement and manage the quarantine system.

The Volunteer will also need to conduct systematic training for the MOFA and other relevant stakeholders on plant quarantine and pest/disease diagnosis. The training of should follow the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This needs to be emphasized during the training in recognition of the existing fragile environment of the Maldives. It will also support awareness-raising activities to educate farmers about the biology and impact of natural enemies of the existing pests and diseases, and the value of natural enemies of pests in other crops. This training will bring wider economic, health, and environmental benefits.

8. Host Agency/Host Institute: Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MFA)

9. Organizational Context:

Under the overall guidance and supervision of National Project Director (Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture) the Volunteer works in close collaboration with the poverty reduction programme of UNDP as well as other project and government personnel in Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. Overall the Volunteer will assist the Ministry Fisheries and Agriculture (MFA) to strengthen the institutional capacity to develop the agriculture sector of Maldives by strengthening plant quarantine and pest/disease diagnostic capability of the Ministry. This will mitigate incursions of new exotic pests, diseases and weeds of agricultural crops and the environment and improve productivity of local farmers. This in turn will contribute to the income and food security of individuals and families whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. A further spin off from this initiative will be the reduced need for additional chemicals with favorable impacts on costs of production.

10. Type of assignment place: assignment with family/ without family (please choose): Assignment without family

11. Description of Duties:

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

- * Develop a system for plant quarantine at Male' sea port and strengthen the work of the plant quarantine and diagnostic centre at International airport.
- * Assist in identifying suitable equipments and machinery for the plant quarantine facilities and the diagnostic laboratories.
- * Develop a functional laboratory at the plant quarantine diagnostic centre and establish a system for pest/disease diagnosis
- * Provide systematic training for technical staff of MFA and other relevant institutions (eg. to upgrade their knowledge and practices of laboratory management, pest/diseases diagnostic capabilities and plant quarantine services.
- * Produce reports on project activities and support the writing and publication of training materials, journal articles and other project information

Furthermore, UNV volunteers are encouraged to:

. 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.

12. Results/Expected Output:

As a result of this initiative, there will be operating within the MFA a fully functioning Plant/Animal Health and Quarantine Unit, outfitted with trained staff and laboratory diagnostic facilities for testing/detecting plant/animal pest and diseases. The specific outputs also include:

* Enhanced technical capacity: The new Maldives quarantine and plant protection services will develop some capacity to identify pest and diseases and be able to perform import risk analyses

* Functional laboratories: A national plant/disease diagnostic laboratory will be established in the Maldives with local staff to sustain the services.

* Operational procedures manuals. The quarantine service will have operational procedures manuals to guide quarantine officers in the performance of their duties and in quarantine decision making.

* An import conditions database for the most commonly imported risk goods from all current sources. This database of conditions will be determined using import risk analysis techniques as recommended by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

* Trained Quarantine Service staff. All staff appointed to the new Maldives Quarantine Service will undertake training which provides the basic knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duties in a manner which reduced quarantine risks to the lowest acceptable level.

* Increased awareness of quarantine by the Maldivian people. Through continuing quarantine awareness campaign the Maldivian people will be exposed to the virtues of quarantine and the reasons why it is so important to accept a level of quarantine control in order to reduce the risks posed by the introduction of pest/diseases in an unregulated system.

13. Qualifications/Requirements:

- * MSc/BSc or higher university degree agriculture specializing in plant protection from a recognized university
- * At least 5 years of practical experience in plant protection/plant quarantine services
- * A proven track record as evidenced by assignments, reports and/or referred papers published in internationally recognized journals and bulletins
- * Training skills and experience
- * Fluent in written and spoken English
- * Flexibility and adaptability as well as good interpersonal skill is preferred
- * Excellent computer skills

14. Living Conditions: The Maldivian archipelago comprise of 1190 coral islands, none of which is so large that it cannot be circumnavigated on foot in less than an hour or so. Naturally, most of the transportation undertaken within the country is by sea and not by land.

Male', which is only 2.5 sq. km, consists of approximately 60 km of well brick-paved roads which makes traveling very smooth. During heavy rains, there may be rain water collected on some roads, which clears within a matter of a few hours. Traffic jams are not a common sight in Male', however it may get considerably crowded during peak hours such as school/office time and on weekends and public holidays.

Traditionally, walking and bicycles were the preferred mode of transport before but this has changed drastically over the decade or so. A large number of cars and motorcycles can now be seen zooming off and on the roads. Hence the main mode of conveyance in Male' is cars, motorcycle, bicycles and walking. Rental taxis are readily accessible anytime of the day through any of the numerous taxi call centers at a fixed rate of MRF20.

Maldivian people come across as traditional and cultured citizen. The social environment in Male' represents a relaxed and friendly community that welcomes outsiders. Being a tourist country Maldives has been visited by foreigners since decades but still has not lost its own identity. Being a 100% Muslim country Maldives has rich cultural values that should be respected.

Alcohol usage is only limited to a few expatriate individuals who would need to purchase this through a special licence. The UNDP Maldives office has a licence for all UN international staff only. UN staff or those who have bought liquor with the licence are not allowed to serve alcohol to

locals nor make it available in parties or gatherings. Nationals are punishable by law if caught engaging in the use of such items.

15. Conditions of Service

A 12 month contract; monthly volunteer living allowance (VLA) intended to cover housing, basic needs and utilities, equivalent to US\$2,093 (single); US\$2,343 (UNVs with one recognized dependent); US\$2,543 (UNVs with two or more recognized dependents); settling-in-grant (if applicable); life, health, and permanent disability insurance; return airfares (if applicable); resettlement allowance US\$150 for per month of satisfactory service.

Applicants should submit their CV and P11 form (which can be downloaded from www.mv.undp.org), and once completed send to:

To: vacancies.mv@undp.org