

VACANCY FOR EU AID VOLUNTEERS FORESTS

The requirements for the announcement are precisely laid down in COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 1244/2014 of 20 November 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative'), annex I, number 2.

Title of the vacancy : Senior volunteer for support to communication activities and awareness campaign

Region, Country : [Central Africa, Cameroon](#)

Profile :

Junior Volunteer

Senior Volunteer

N° of position (s) : 01

Sectors :

Climate
Disaster Risk Reduction
Linking Relief, Rehabilitation And Development (Lrrd)
Livelihoods
Resilience

Website : <https://www.france-volontaires.org/nos-actions/forests/missions-a-pourvoir/>

Information about Eu Aid Volunteers Initiative:

Funded by the European Commission, European Union Aid Volunteers Initiative (EUAV) programme and managed by the European agency EACEA. Its deployment component brings together specialized volunteers and organizations from different countries dedicated to in crisis prevention and post-crisis recovery situations to strengthen the resilience of communities affected by disasters.

As a EUAV Volunteer, you will have the opportunity to make a real difference by getting involved in humanitarian aid projects where your help is most needed.

DESCRIPTION

Project description

EUAV FORESTS focuses on building the resilience of the communities living in these territories, through the civic engagement of European volunteers and local communities in Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Congo and Vietnam. The action that mobilises EUAV volunteers is divided into 5 strategic axes:

- A comprehensive approach to resilience, by carrying out a mapping study aimed at identifying, at all levels with the active participation of each of the communities concerned, the various factors of vulnerability to disasters and crises.
- Support provided by volunteers to vulnerable populations, which will allow the direct development of human capital so that they can reduce the impact of climate change and human induced pollutions cope and install an adaptation process.
- Activities to mobilize future generations, to help to develop the social capital of their communities, to limit future risks and, in return, to promote community development activities that will strengthen individual resilience.
- Dissemination of information, strengthening of social ties and support for local populations to set up projects that complement awareness-raising activities.
- A last workstream is ensuring sustainability, awareness raising and fundamental change of attitudes through the involvement of young people in projects and advocacy campaigns around the rights of communities living in forest areas.

After a rigorous selection procedure, the 27 EU volunteers selected for FORESTS will have the opportunity to travel to these countries to carry out junior or senior (=more than five years of experience) expert roles in climate change adaptation, forest resource management, awareness raising, communication and advocacy and project management. The working languages will be English and French.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS & SECURITY CONTEXT:

Operational Context

Hosting organisation : France Volontaires has been present in Cameroon since 1964 and works in close collaboration with the French and Cameroonian authorities, civil society and the volunteer community in order to carry out its missions. Its Volunteer Space (Espace Volontariat), which is a real information point, it is open to all actors : volunteers, interns, sending structures, reception structures, institutions and various users.

Physical and virtual place, the Space has an internet connection, a documentation space, a meeting room. The National Representative in Cameroon, Zoumana DEMBELE, coordinates and collaborates with Achille Valery MENGO, in charge of Support to the Development of Volunteers, Celia Vidal, in charge of communication and resource mobilization and Rachael Mkoinla, management assistant.

Sending organisation : France Volontaires is the French platform for International Volunteering of Exchange and Solidarity (VIES). Created in 2009 as an association, France Volontaires is the result of a shared construction between public and associative actors involved in international solidarity. As an operator of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, it brings together the State, local authorities and associations around a mission of general interest: the development and promotion of voluntary and solidarity commitments at the international level. It relies on a presence in France and a network of Volunteer Centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Humanitarian Context

On the humanitarian front, Cameroon has been affected by a major crisis since 2014, firstly because of the influx of Central African refugees on its territory (Cameroon is the Central African country that receives the most Central African refugees), then because of the exactions of the Boko Haram group in the Far North Region and currently because of the security crisis in the North-West and South-West regions.

The multi-year humanitarian response plan (2017-2020) targets 2.3 million people in 2019. The priority is to save lives and meet the acute and chronic needs of the most vulnerable populations. It covers 8 humanitarian response regions (Adamaoua, East, Far North, North, South West, North West, West and Coast) and requires USD 299 million for its implementation.

Security Context

The security situation in Cameroon has been a topical concern for the past few years, first in the Far North Region attacked by the Boko Haram terrorist sect, although the military situation is under control, we note a persistence of actions by this group, this region remains a red zone according to the security division of the French Embassy in Cameroon. The North-West and South-West regions, for their part, are experiencing security troubles due to abuses committed by groups claiming secession. To date, there have been a large number of victims and thousands of internally displaced persons. These two regions are red zones according to the security division.

Besides that, the Cameroonian territory is relatively peaceful. However, it should be noted that: The risk of road accidents, delinquency and others that require vigilance, avoid night walks, etc... However, it is advisable to be particularly vigilant, especially during the festive season at the end of the year. And avoid carrying large sums of money and/or valuables on your person.

Information importante relative à l'épidémie Covid19 (màj le 16 juillet)

Number of confirmed cases: 16,157
Number of patients healed: 13,728
Number of deaths: 373
Number of active cases: 2056

Cameroon is the Central African country most affected by the pandemic. The context is still marked by the epidemic, which is not yet declining. Barrier measures are very little followed and contaminations continue. And it is increasingly apparent that this situation is set to continue.

As soon as the first case appeared on 6 March, the authorities took numerous measures to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Border closures
- Adoption of barrier actions, awareness, ...
- Establishment of Patient Care Facilities in Stadiums
- Market disinfections by town hall officials
- Disinfection facilities are installed in some stations to ensure passenger safety.
- Wearing a mask has become compulsory but has not become a habit.
- Cancellation of the 1st and 20th May holidays
- Schools remain closed with exam classes reopening in June
- The Ambassador of France has decided to close the French schools which will only open on 2 September: "in view of the rapid evolution of the COVID 19 pandemic in Cameroon and the difficulties encountered (by the Cameroonian state) in caring for the sick, it does not seem reasonable to reopen the French schools in Cameroon".
- 2/3 of the 60 or so volunteers have been repatriated.

The Minister of Health had announced the peak for mid-June, but the epidemic did not subside by that date. It is hoped that the peak will be reached in July.

The reopening of borders is foreseen and a sanitary protocol is already established for travelers embarking for Cameroon: To have a negative test certificate to COVID 19 dating less than 72 hours, on arrival test again at the airport, the positive ones will be retained in the places determined by the government and the negative ones will be able to return home with home quarantine for 2 weeks.

Air France and Brussels Airlines operate two to three rotations per week. Ethiopian Airlines has also announced the very imminent resumption of its flights to Cameroon.

The reopening of air borders to commercial flights would be imminent. There is increasing talk about 1 August.

The Volunteer Space relays information from the French Embassy to the volunteers via the Facebook page created and dedicated to strengthening communication towards the volunteers.

Details opérationnels

For the local implementation of this project, France Volontaires Cameroun worked in partnership with the organization Tropical forest and rural development whose objective is to fight for the reduction of poverty and the protection of ecosystems and endangered species through the following actions:

- Environmental education,
 - Valorization of Non-Ligneous Forest Products (NTFPs),
 - Valorization of agro-forestry,
 - Action research and development
- for the benefit of local communities living around protected areas in Cameroon.

In addition, the project will rely on the Network of Actors for Volunteerism and International Solidarity (RAVSI) which is a platform of 75 civil society associations that advocates the promotion of volunteerism, local skills and experience sharing.

The volunteer in charge of the diagnosis, the identification of risk areas, actors and networking manages all the steps related to the implementation of the said activity. He will be based in Yaoundé in the premises of the Volunteer Space under the supervision of the National Representative.

The volunteer will be placed under the tutorship of the support officer for the development of volunteerism (CADV) of France Volontaires in Cameroon.

TASKS AND COMPETENCIES

Tasks :

Under the supervision of France Volontaires Cameroun, the volunteer will work with other EUAV volunteers and national volunteers to support the communication on EUAV FORESTS activities, the awareness campaign and its partners :

1. ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY OF FORESTS ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

- Actively participate in the design and implementation of the FORESTS communication strategy at the national level in collaboration with the staff of France Volontaires Cameroun, ESI LABS! and within the FORESTS communication team ;
- Assist volunteers and EUAV FORESTS partners in the development of relevant and attractive promotional material - including online and audiovisual content and institutional content (press releases, reports, etc.) to highlight the work carried out by EUAV FORESTS in Cameroon, which will be used to raise interest and awareness on sustainable forest management, climate change adaptation and ecological resilience of local communities ;
- Support the management of social networks in collaboration with ESI LABS! and EV Cameroon ;

2. CONTRIBUTION TO FORESTS AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES IN CAMEROON

- Participation in the establishment and support of a collective of youth associations for the preservation of forests (support for the drafting of a communication plan, an awareness plan and the development of communication materials and tools);
- Contribution to the organization of 5 national events as part of a national program;
- Active participation in an awareness-raising campaign on forest protection, including: preparation of awareness-raising materials, in conjunction with the FORESTS network, organization of meetings and thematic meetings, identification and promotion of good practices;

3. PROMOTION OF THE EUAV INITIATIVE AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

- Promotion of the role of EUAV international volunteering and local volunteering in risk reduction, disaster prevention and response in relation to the EACEA, other EUAV project promoters and the national representations of the European Union;
- Mobile meetings in 5 different areas: interviews with volunteers, presentation of offers and potential volunteering structures during an information day.
- Write and publish articles a in Europe on volunteering experiences in the field in cooperation with the FORESTS communication team.
- Promote partnerships and collaboration between local and European organizations on climate change adaptation issues.

Required competencies:

Studies:

Master degree in communication, advocacy, development, political sciences or vacancy related field **with strong command of communications strategy and tools**. Lower qualifications might be accepted if the candidate has a longer experience.

Skills and Knowledge:

- Strong analytical and diagnostic skills
- Strong writing and synthesis skills, both in French and English;
- Strong command of communication design tools: mastering of photography, audio and visual editing, a strong asset;
- Good knowledge of social networks and communication strategy, mandatory.
- Mastery of Office Suite is essential;
- Knowledge of institutional communication a strong asset;
- Knowledge of partnerships promotion, a strong asset;
- Knowledge related to humanitarian issues and specifically related to climate crisis will be appreciated;
- Knowledge on or interest in gender approach in project management and communication, an asset;
- Good knowledge of CSO ecosystems, an asset;
- Knowledge on research and/or knowledge management techniques will be appreciated;
- Knowledge on or interest in stakeholders engagement, particularly local partners and community groups.

General skills:

- Creativity;
- Strong organizational capacity to meet deadlines;
- Good Intercultural communication skills;
- Good interpersonal skills;
- Team working and facilitator mindset;
- Humility and willingness to learn from others;
- Autonomy;
- Dynamic and proactive attitude;
- Adaptability to changing contexts.

Languages:

Strong command of English AND French is mandatory.

Experience:

- Minimum of 5 years' experience of which at least 2 in institutional/CSO communication;
- Previous experience in events management;
- Previous working or volunteer experience in developing countries and/or NGO, strongly encouraged;
- Prior in Cameroon or in Central Africa or demonstrated interest will be considered an asset;
- Previous professional or volunteer experience in developing countries and/or NGOs is strongly encouraged;
- Previous experience or strong interest in capacity building and community-based forest management and protection.
- Previous experience or strong interest in awareness campaign or activities;
- Willingness to commit to safeguarding sensitive ecosystems and improving community adaptation to climate change and its attendant humanitarian risks.

SELECTION CRITERIA and ELIGIBILITY

Applications are made directly to the sending organisation, please check out the how to apply section.

Selection criteria: Applications are made directly within the sending organisation, please check out the how to apply section.

- Be an EU citizen or long-term resident in an EU Member State ;
- Be at least 18 years old ;
- Being available on a full-time basis is an important commitment. You must be available for the duration indicated in the vacancy notice, which can range from 6 months to 12 months.
- You do not necessarily need to have experience in the field of humanitarian aid to apply for an EU volunteer position. The EU Aid Volunteers programme is open to people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.
- You must, however, meet the requirements of each volunteer position, which you will find in each EUAV FORESTS mission advertisement.

As EUAV candidat, you commit yourself to :

- Be available during the selection process (from September 2020);
- To attend the various training courses (1 week of distance learning and 9 to 12 days of face-to-face training organised by EACEA during autumn 2020);
- Gather and make available in due time all administrative and medical documents that will be requested from you by France-Volontaires (from August 2020);
- Participate in all stages of preparation for deployment organised by your sending organisation (Autumn 2020).

Minimum Requirements: N/A

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Learning opportunities :

- Development of skills in partnership management, community management and capacity building
- Development and strengthening of technical knowledge and skills applied to sustainable forest management
- Discovery of Cameroon and its diversity
- Acquisition of intercultural skills
- Learning in the local language

Working and living conditions :

The duty station is based in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon.

The Volunteer will be based at the Espace Volontariats Cameroun. An office equipped with Internet access, and a professional address. Leisure activities (sports, culture) are also available in Yaoundé.

Furnished/equipped, secure, insured accommodation will be made available to the volunteer. Electricity, water and gas cooker costs will be covered by the project.

The project will cover the following costs:

- Pre-departure training by the EU Aid Volunteers initiative (transport, meals, accommodation paid by the initiative)
- Preparation for departure with the sending organisation (transport, meals, accommodation)
- Vaccines and medical check-ups
- Insurance covered by the EU Aid Volunteers initiative
- Travel to the mission location
- Accommodation (rent, insurance, charges)
- Monthly allowance: 357.36 euros
- Meals and personal transport are the responsibility of the volunteer.

SELECTION PROCESS

Application deadline : 16/09/2020

Shortlisting and Interviews:

The applicant must send the following documents to the address PROJET.FORESTS.EUAV@france-volontaires.org :

- Application form in French
- Self-assessment questionnaire
- CV in Europass format

Please note that only complete applications submitted to this e-mail will be considered.

Interview Process:

Between August and September, pre-selected candidates will have a Skype interview with sending and hosting organisations.

Successful candidates will be selected and informed at the end of September.

In October-November, these candidates will follow a face-to-face training organized by the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

The final selection will be made by the end of November after the first phase of training.

A pre-deployment induction conducted by the sending organizations will take place in Paris in November-December 2020.

It is very important to note that additional candidates per mission will be selected and will participate in the training. This ensures that missions will be filled even if some candidates withdraw. Therefore, the final selection will only be confirmed after the face-to-face training.

Expected date decision on outcome: 30/11/2020

TIMETABLE

Date of training: October- November 2020

Apprenticeship Placement: N/A

Pre-deployment preparation and induction: November 2020

Deployment: from 01/12/2020 to 30/11/2021

Post-deployment activities: December 2021 to January 2022

Sectors: Climate Disaster Risk Reduction Linking Relief, Rehabilitation And Development (Lrrd) Livelihoods Resilience

Date attendue de la décision : 30/11/2020

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- Formulaire de candidature en français
- Auto-évaluation du volontaire en français
- CV Europass en français