VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Research Associate - VALE

(Personnel Service Agreement - PSA)

Organizational Unit: United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Reference Number: 2019/UNU/EHS/PSA/RA/90

Applications to: hrbonn@vie.unu.edu

Closing Date: 05 January 2020

About UN University
For the past four decades, UNU has been a go-to think tank for impartial research on the pressing global problems of human survival, conflict prevention, development, and welfare. With more than 400 researchers in 13 countries, UNU’s work spans the full breadth of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, generating policy-relevant knowledge to effect positive global change. UNU maintains more than 200 collaborations with UN agencies and leading universities and research institutions across the globe. For more information please visit www.unu.edu.

United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) established in December 2003, is part of the UNU system, a worldwide network of Research and Training Institutes. Its mission is to advance human security through knowledge-based approaches to reducing vulnerability and environmental risks. For more information, please visit www.ehs.unu.edu.

The Environmental Vulnerability & Ecosystem Services (EVES) Section at UNU-EHS focusses on the vulnerability and risk of social-ecological systems exposed to environmental hazards. We develop social-ecological risk assessment methodologies to identify appropriate ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (Eco-DRR/EbA) strategies in a spatially explicit and context-specific way. Resource degradation and trade-offs in the use of scarce natural resources, such as water and land, as well as the provision of ecosystem services complement the research portfolio in the overall context of disaster risk and sustainable development. Our research and capacity building activities aim at furthering sustainable development by advancing ecosystem-based solutions while contributing simultaneously to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Aichi biodiversity targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

For detailed information please visit: https://ehs.unu.edu/about/sections/eves#overview
VALE – Development and validation of earth observation-based indicators for the monitoring of the Sendai framework using the example of flooding in Ecuador

The VALE project will develop an innovative method to derive earth observation-based information products for selected indicators of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and validate them based on an existing database on flood loss and damage in Ecuador. The method development consists of the following components: (i) the automated derivation of floodplains based on earth observation data will be further developed to a small scale and will provide the information product of flood hazard in Ecuador; (ii) the indicators of the SFDRR will be derived for the example of flood losses based on the combination of flood hazard with exposure and vulnerability in Ecuador; (iii) subsequently the earth observation-based Sendai indicators will be validated with in-situ measurements of actual loss and damage due to flooding.

UNU-EHS will coordinate the VALE project, conduct and exposure and vulnerability analysis to floods in Ecuador, derive selected Sendai indicators by combining flood hazard with exposure and vulnerability, and validate the indicators in reference to in-situ measured loss and damage.

Responsibilities:

Under the authority of the Director of UNU-EHS and the guidance of Head of the EVES Section the successful candidate shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- Literature review on flood vulnerability, risk and impacts in Ecuador.
- Acquisition and preprocessing of geospatial data for the quantitative assessment of flood vulnerability and risk.
- Assessing flood vulnerability and risk for Ecuador.
- Support the preparation and organization of the VALE workshops.
- Assist in developing a methodological procedure to integrate quantitative flood hazard, exposure and vulnerability to support the reporting for targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Draft project deliverables and reports.
- Contribute to dissemination activities (incl. scientific publications and presentations at conferences).
- Support the supervision of student assistants and interns working within the project.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications and experience requirements

- Master’s degree in Geography, Geosciences, Geographical Information Systems, Statistics, Spatial Planning, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Management or other relevant discipline;
- Experience in vulnerability and risk assessment;
- Advanced knowledge of spatial analysis and Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS, QGIS, etc.);
- Statistical skills and experience with statistical software packages (SPSS, STATA, etc.);
- Experience with ecosystem service assessment is an asset;
- Track-record in scientific writing is an asset;
- Strong ability to carry out work independently;
- Excellent communication skills with fluency in oral and written English and Spanish is required;
- Project management experience will be an asset;
- Good team player with ability to work in international and intercultural environment; experience in international organizations would be an advantage;
- Excellent time management skills;
- Takes initiatives and has flexible attitude to work, as appropriate;
German language skills are an additional asset;

UNU is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious, and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities to apply and become part of the organization.

UNU has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNU, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination.

**Contract and Remuneration:**

This is a full-time (40 hours/week) employment on a twelve (12) months Personnel Service Agreement (PSA) contract with possibility for renewal subject to satisfactory work performance and availability of funds, with the combined duration of appointments not exceeding six (6) years.

Remuneration will be within the range of the PSA pay scheme applied by UNU in Bonn and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

This is a locally recruited post and no relocation allowances apply. The successful candidate will be employed under a local contract and will not hold international civil servant status nor is he/she a “staff member” as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations.

The United Nations University is a non-smoking environment.

**Starting date:**

As soon as possible.

**Application Procedure:**

Interested applicants should submit their applications by e-mail (to hrbonn@vie.unu.edu), and must include the following:

- A cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
- A curriculum vitae and a completed and signed [UNU Personal History (P.11) form](http://www.unu.edu) downloadable from the [UNU website](http://www.unu.edu). Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations;
- An indication of the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2019/UNU/EHS/PSA/RA/90).