



➤ UNV in Action: Environment and Climate Change

Climate change is caused by human action – and can consequently only be addressed by changing human behaviour, especially with regard to consumption and production patterns. The environment movement is rooted in volunteer action. In most cases, volunteers are among the first on site to respond to the aftermath of environmental disasters.

➤ UNV works to protect the environment and mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Volunteerism plays an important role in catalysing and promoting environmental action and disaster risk reduction. Partnering with governments, development actors and civil society, UNV manages a talented cadre of committed volunteers working around the globe. These volunteers are in a unique position to mobilize communities from the national to grassroots levels.

"Human activities are the dominant cause of climate change. We cannot blame nature... I firmly believe that every one of us can step up and become leaders in combating climate change, promoting sustainable development and building lives of dignity for all."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
Big Idea 2014: The Year for Climate Action

➤ From 2008-2012, about 3 per cent of UN Volunteers contributed annually. UN Volunteers contributed to assignments in the area of environment and sustainable development covering a range of fields and projects. UN Volunteers support responses to climate change impacts, help local communities with environmental management, encourage community-to-community learning and raise awareness. UN Volunteers add particular value to the environment and climate change programmes of development partners by incorporating the important elements of community-based voluntary action, self-help and replication.

UNV in Action - Environment and Climate Change

UNV has made a commitment to protect the environment and take action against climate change. The mitigation of negative effects, risk reduction, environmental management, adequate climate-change responses, better access to natural resources and food security, all require an integrated approach from a large scope of stakeholders. UNV's efforts encompass activities on people-centered and grassroots level to national and international campaigns.

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Only a broad spectrum of initiatives, including micro-level climate change and land degradation measures, promotion of renewable energy sources, efficient waste management practices, biodiversity and sustainable livelihood endeavors, well-developed systems for disaster response, can address the urgency of environmental protection of today. Volunteers have proven their high value added on every dimension of this complex scheme.

For example, UN Volunteers in particular, have rendered valuable support as part of UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) Community-Based Adaptation project helping build up community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction.

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- Climate Change

Sustainable Development Goal: