EcoSwell - Volunteer job description

Information about the Charity:

Located in Peru's northern surf paradise, EcoSwell works with local communities in rural and semi-rural Peru to design and implement renewable energy, water and sanitation, public health, research and ecosystem restoration projects in marginalised areas. In this manner they seek to help propel sustainable development within these communities, implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in practice.

For more information about the charity, please visit www.ecoswell.org

Information about the project:

EcoSwell is looking for up to two volunteers support the implementation of their Water and Sanitation portfolio from September 2024 for three months. This portfolio includes several projects, the main ones being Wastewater Bio-treatment pilots with vetiver plants (Chrysopogon zizanioides) at the towns of Negritos and Piedritas (GIZ-German Cooperation project), and Hydrogeophysical equipment for community monitoring of groundwater for sustainable use in Lobitos and surrounding communities (Geoscientists Without Borders (GWB) project). Other initiatives also include trials of floating vetiver “pontoons”, dry composting toilets, drip irrigation for reforestation and greywater wetlands in Lobitos. The volunteers will work with volunteer interns within the communities and ten members of EcoSwell staff. The tasks and responsibilities that the volunteers will carry out include:

- Finalise engineering designs and ground-truth at field location sites for wastewater bio-treatment pilots to be implemented
- Implement wastewater bio-treatment pilots in the field
- Finalise training materials for community training in the use of three hydrogeophysical equipment in the field (seismic, resistivity, ground-penetrating radar), in close coordination with our partner experts from UCL and Lancaster University (UK) who have assembled the equipment units and shipped them to Peru.
- Lead the training of local members of the community in use of hydrogeophysical equipment, both in theory and in the field, for gathering adequate field data, assist in its processing and interpretation with partner experts and involved students and dissemination of results.
- Keep an accurate account of all active and future EcoSwell water and sanitation projects
- Propose any improvements to designs, projects and processes
- Reporting of projects (technically and financially).
- Ensure the creation of marketing content for our water and sanitation projects in coordination with our Communications Dept.
- Scope potential opportunities for funding and partnerships for future projects

- Lead and supervise the two main projects regarding Water & Sanitation at EcoSwell. Plan and execute tasks and next steps for each project according to project plans and budgets to ensure projects are progressing and their results delivered (2 pilots for wastewater biotreatment successfully implemented on site, 10 community members successfully trained in use of hydrogeophysical equipment in the field with adequate data gathering).
- Lead teams of volunteer-interns in Lobitos working on these projects and report weekly to EcoSwell Director on progress made
- Liaising with project sponsors, suppliers, partners and community members as necessary.
- Ensure volunteer interns, local community members and any project participants are abiding at all times by safety protocols and procedures
- Focus on serving as a positive and enthusiastic role model in order to create a healthy and positive dynamic within the EcoSwell house and work environments

Skills required/other:

- Engineering background regarding water & sanitation.
- Team management and organisational skills
- Intermediate/Advanced Spanish
- Must be proactive and good at working independently and as part of a team
- Interest, knowledge and experience in bio-engineering approaches (bioremediation/phytoremediation with plants) is preferable
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn and research
- Ability to multitask
- Good at problem solving