Peace Corps

Aquaculture Extension Specialist-Rural Aquaculture Promotion (RAP)

- **Apply By:** July 1, 2016
- **Know By:** September 1, 2016
- **Depart By:** February 11, 2017

**Project Description**

Volunteers who have served in Zambia consider it to be the "quintessential Peace Corps" experience.

The Rural Aquaculture Promotion project is focused primarily on the principles and practices of rural-based, small-scale, integrated agriculture technologies. Volunteers work in close collaboration with Zambia's Department of Fisheries with the goal of improving rural livelihoods through fish farming. Volunteers live in rural farming communities and provide intensive extension services aimed at increasing farmer capacities to successfully build and manage fishponds to increase production and incomes. Volunteers teach and assist farmers in technical aspects such as site selection, pond construction, stocking, management, and harvesting. Volunteers seek to enhance the integration of fish farming with other agricultural activities such as gardening, animal husbandry, fruit trees, and agro-forestry.

For farmers who are interested in scaling up their activities, Volunteers also provide training in basic business skills such as planning, record keeping, and marketing. As most farmers belong to aquaculture cooperatives or associations, Volunteers are involved in strengthening the organizational capacity of such local groups by providing training in aspects such as needs assessment, action planning, organizational structure, leadership, and project implementation.

The most successful Volunteers in Zambia are extremely flexible and adaptable, and have a passion for inspiring others. Peace Corps Zambia offers exceptional technical training during Pre-Service Training for those with the motivation to learn about the Environment and Food Security.

**Required Skills**

Competitive candidates will have an expressed interest in working in agriculture and a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree in any field

**Desired Skills**

- Degree in Environmental Education, Environmental Studies, or Natural Resources
- Experience organizing/leading environmental education activities
- Experience promoting environmental awareness in schools and communities
- 5 Years of professional work experience
Required Language Skills

There are no pre-requisite language requirements for this position. Please take a moment to explore the Language Comments section below to find out more on how local language(s) will be utilized during service.

Additional Language Information

While English is the official language of Zambia, most Volunteers will need to speak the local language in order to effectively communicate in their community. Some community members may have intermediate or advanced levels of English, most will not. Therefore, Volunteers will be most effective when conversing and working in the local language and all Trainees must come prepared to learn a local Zambian language. Trainees will have the privilege of undergoing one of the most comprehensive language immersion programs in the world. They will receive three months of language learning from native speakers in the predominant language spoken at the site they will be placed in and will be required to attain intermediate level. They will also receive a survival language kit for the dialect found in their site and encouraged to engage the services of a tutor once they get to their site.

Living Conditions

Becoming an Aquaculture Extension Specialist in Zambia requires commitment to working in remote areas with mentally and physically challenging environments. Volunteers must be prepared to bike long distances (up to 12 miles in one direction) and to work and live in rural Zambian settings. Housing will be made of mud with thatched roofs and no electricity. Water will be from a nearby well or stream, which is then filtered through a Peace Corps-issued water filter. Cell phone coverage may not exist at your site, but all Volunteers report having cell phone coverage nearby to at least be able to text.

Volunteers typically live on a large housing compound with two or three other families, but have their own housing structure, cooking area, private washing area, and latrine. Volunteers may choose to share meals with their host neighbors or cook on their own.

Peace Corps Zambia supports its Volunteers in this uniquely rural environment through a strong regional office model. In each province where Volunteers serve, PC/Zambia operates a Provincial House, which is staffed year round and serves as an oasis (electricity, showers, internet), as well as a resource center for work collaboration and training. Further, having Peace Corps Staff and resources nearby allows for more comprehensive and timely support of volunteers, especially their health and safety - which are Peace Corps' top priorities.

Medical Considerations in Zambia

- Volunteers whose health is maintained with access to care related to the following conditions or sub-specialties may not be able to serve: asthma; dermatology; gastroenterology; hematology; mammography; ongoing behavioral health support; ophthalmology; seizure disorder; urology.
- The following medication(s) are not permitted for legal or cultural reasons: Adderall and Ritalin.
- Volunteers who should avoid the following food(s) may not be able to serve: eggs, gluten and peanuts.
- After arrival in Zambia, Peace Corps provides and applicants are required to have an annual flu shot, to take daily or weekly medication to prevent malaria, and to receive mandatory immunizations.

Learn more about Peace Corps medical requirements ›
Learn more about what it's like to serve in Zambia.

Visit Peace Corps Zambia's website.