

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE AMAZON PROGRAMME (V-AMAZONIA)

Call for expressions of interest for the selection of host projects for International Volunteers for Exchange and Solidarity (VIES).

1. CONTEXT OF THE CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Forests are indispensable to life on our planet. They ensure an adequate supply of fresh water, constitute unique reservoirs of biodiversity, and provide income and livelihoods for many communities. Today, forests are facing unprecedented pressures resulting from the combined effects of climate change and human activity (pollution, intensive activities, deforestation, etc.).

The Amazon, the world's largest forest basin, is particularly vulnerable. Combating deforestation, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring the necessary adaptation of human activities are central to the priorities pursued by the **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization**. Many public authorities and civil society actors also work every day to develop responses that are as close as possible to local needs, often with limited operational capacity.

France is committed to the preservation of tropical primary forests, particularly the Amazon rainforest. This commitment was reiterated by the President of the French Republic at the ACTO Summit in Belém in August 2023 and during his State visit to Brazil in March 2024. To this end, France is mobilizing budgetary support and its implementing agencies.

International volunteering for exchange and solidarity is one of the instruments mobilized by France. Volunteering makes it possible to engage citizens, particularly young professionals, in support of partnerships and international cooperation projects. Volunteering therefore helps strengthen the capacity to act. French volunteering schemes make it possible both to send French volunteers abroad and to support "South-South" volunteering, as well as the hosting in France of volunteers from our partner countries in the Global South.

France Volontaires, the platform for international volunteering for exchange and solidarity and an operator of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, is mandated to promote and support the development of high-quality volunteering. As part of its mandate, France Volontaires leads programs designed to strengthen the contribution of volunteering to major global challenges. The preservation of biodiversity, particularly tropical primary forests, is a priority. Since 2023, France Volontaires has therefore been implementing the "Volunteers for the Preservation of Congo Basin Forests" program announced at the One Forest Summit held in Libreville (Gabon).

The "Volunteers for the Amazon" program therefore strengthens the contribution of French volunteering to the challenge of preserving primary forests by supporting stakeholders in the countries of the Amazon basin. Planned for a duration of 30 months, the program is implemented by France Volontaires with financial support from the French Ministry for

Europe and Foreign Affairs (DGM/DCTCIV). The countries targeted are **Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname as well as mainland France and the overseas territories.**

With a duration of 30 months, the program aims at:

- **Mobilizing at least 50 volunteers** in support of high-impact initiatives led by civil society organizations in the countries of the Amazon basin;
- **Strengthening the capacities and networking of 100 civil society organizations** working to preserve the Amazon rainforest or to support local communities and Indigenous peoples.

The first call for expressions of interest launched in 2025 led to the selection of 49 assignments under the VSI, VSI-R and VEC French volunteering schemes. As of April 2026, **36 volunteers** are in the field, 7 are being recruited or are in pre-departure training, and 6 have completed their assignment.

This second call for expressions of interest opens the V-Amazonia program to a new French volunteering scheme, International Civic Service (SCI), including on a reciprocal basis, and constitutes an important strategic lever. It is intended to strengthen the program's impact by extending the momentum created by volunteers already engaged, through a stronger presence alongside communities and broader civic mobilization. The integration of SCI will also make it possible to develop reciprocity by hosting in France young people from Amazonian countries, thereby consolidating partnerships and enriching intercultural exchanges. In this context, three schemes may be mobilized under this second call:

- **The International Civic Service (SCI):** Civic Service is an introductory volunteering scheme for young people undertaking assignments of general interest. A wide range of organizations may host a Civic Service volunteer, including host organizations outside France that are not accredited, provided that the assignment is implemented through an accredited intermediary organization. If the accredited organization has not been identified at the time the project is submitted, France Volontaires will facilitate the connection.
- **The Reciprocal Civic Service (SCR):** International Civic Service is open to the principle of reciprocity, enabling young people from countries that host French volunteers to come and carry out an assignment in France.
- **The Exchange and Skills Volunteering (VEC):** Exchange and Skills Volunteering is implemented by certain associations that are members of France Volontaires. It enables a volunteer with more extensive professional experience to provide expertise to a host organization for a short-term assignment.

A summary table is available in the [annex](#).

2. TERMS OF THE CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Objectives	<p>To identify organizations wishing to host international volunteers as part of their projects relating to forest preservation in the countries of the Amazon basin.</p>
Eligible organisations	<p>The following are eligible under this call for expressions of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations that are members of France Volontaires ; • Any non-profit organization carrying out projects related to the program’s geographic scope and thematic focus.
Programme framework	<p><u>An operational framework structured around:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A steering committee bringing together France Volontaires, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the program partners. This steering committee is the body responsible for reviewing and validating the program’s strategic orientations. It also selects the volunteer assignments. • A facilitation and capacity-building approach for stakeholders and volunteers, to be deployed by France Volontaires and its partners in each of the program countries. <p><u>Geographical scope :</u></p> <p>Assignments proposed under this call for expressions of interest must take place in France (mainland France and the overseas departments located in the Caribbean and in French Guiana), in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname.</p> <p>The deployment of volunteers will be subject to compliance with the security recommendations of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs: https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays-destination/</p> <p><u>Themes of the volunteering assignments:</u></p> <p>Volunteer assignments must focus on the following themes:</p> <p>Enhancing the value of the forest: local valorization of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), development of activities alternative to poaching and deforestation, support to forest communities, sustainable resource management, promotion of the ancestral knowledge of Indigenous peoples, agroforestry, etc.</p> <p>Restoring the forest: reforestation activities, action against deforestation, land restoration, nature-based solutions, national and international advocacy, etc.</p>

Protecting the forest: participatory management of natural parks and protected areas, responsible ecotourism (with non-profit or limited-profit organizations in the social and solidarity economy), mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, involvement of local communities and Indigenous peoples, awareness-raising on deforestation and forest-related climate issues, support for the development of innovative alternative income-generating activities to avoid forest exploitation (with non-profit or limited-profit organizations in the social and solidarity economy), etc.

The integration of **cross-cutting themes** will be particularly appreciated: youth participation, gender, and the rights of local communities and Indigenous peoples, as well as the link between research and civil society.

Assignments may be support-oriented (capacity building, advocacy, communication support, organizational structuring and fundraising support for organizations working on the selected themes) or focused on the concrete implementation of projects related to the selected themes (technical assistance, project management, community-based actions, etc.).

Schedule :

Depending on the projects, the start of assignments may be envisaged from September 2026, subject to the time required for their preparation. All assignments must be completed before July 2027.

Communication and evaluation:

Communication :

A communication plan to showcase the program and its results will be deployed. It will notably rely on the creation of a visual identity and the production and dissemination of volunteer profiles and stakeholder testimonials through digital channels (websites, social media, etc.). A launch event and a closing/dissemination event will also be organized.

Evaluation

An external evaluation of the program will be carried out in order to verify the program's relevance and the effectiveness and efficiency of its implementation. This evaluation will formulate recommendations for extending the program and mobilizing additional complementary financial partners.

<p>Participation arrangements</p>	<p>Organizations are invited to express their interest by completing the online form. It is possible to propose several assignments across several schemes.</p>
<p>Selection criteria and expected commitments</p>	<p><u>Selection criteria :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of the proposed assignment (consistency with the program theme, objectives, positioning and added value of the assignment within the organization, support arrangements, articulation and complementarity with other volunteering schemes); • The creation of new volunteer hosting projects; • The capacity to host and support the volunteer; • Complementarity between the schemes mobilized; • The proposed schedule; • The capacity to provide the required co-financing. <p><u>Expected commitments of successful applicants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to clearly and promptly formulate the objectives and arrangements of the assignment in the form of a mission description; • A commitment to contribute effectively to the preparation of the administrative file required for the volunteer's visa application; • A commitment to complete the training required for hosting a volunteer; • A commitment to support the volunteer's assignment; • The ability to manage the administrative and financial follow-up inherent to hosting the volunteer and implementing the assignment; • The ability to cover the required co-financing and the volunteers' operating costs; • Active involvement in the program's exchange spaces; • A contribution to programme communication ; • A contribution to the program evaluation.

3. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

For the implementation of the assignments, successful organizations will benefit from the funding provided under the regulatory framework of the Civic Service scheme. This will be supplemented by financial support from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, managed by France Volontaires under the program.

A financial contribution is expected from the host organizations benefiting from the projects to cover the volunteer's round-trip airfare and visa, accommodation during the assignment, and part of the support costs, representing approximately 30% of the total cost of the assignment.

In all cases, **the costs related to the volunteers' operating arrangements (workspace, travel required for the assignment, IT equipment, etc.) will be borne by the successful organization.**

The table below sets out the average **estimated** unit mobilization costs for one volunteer assignment, depending on the scheme and the distribution of co-financing. These amounts are indicative and may change depending on the implementation scope of each assignment.

	SCI 7 months	SCR 7 months	VEC 3 months max.
Estimated cost of one volunteer	11 963 €	13 148 €	5000€
Amount covered under statutory funding	5 563 €	4 394 €	N/A
Co-financing provided by the program	3 200 €	4 376 €	3500€
Co-financing to be provided by the host organization	3 200 €	4 376 €	1500€

Each assignment will be governed by an agreement signed by the parties, specifying their respective roles and responsibilities for the organization and implementation of the assignment(s). No deployment and no expenditure may be covered by the program until this agreement has been signed by all parties.

4. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

21/05/2026: Publication of the call for expressions of interest

01/07/2026 : First selection committee meeting

31/08/2026: Closing date for the call for expressions of interest

September 2026 : Final selection committee meeting

5. HOW TO APPLY

Complete the online form: <https://demarche.numerique.gouv.fr/commencer/en-call-for-projects-volunteers-for-the-amazon>

You will be asked to:

1. Present your organization and identify a contact person;
2. For each assignment, specify :
 - a. The target theme and its relevance to the program;
 - b. The country and city of deployment;
 - c. For each assignment: the host project, the objectives of the volunteer assignment, the resources made available, the expected profile, and the desired start date.
 - d. Arrangements for hosting the volunteer
 - e. The partnership framework for the assignment;

You may submit several assignments across several schemes.

For any request relating to this questionnaire, please send an email to: amazonie@france-volontaires.org.

ANNEX 1: AREAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

Any deployment of volunteers under French schemes is subject to compliance with the security framework and the recommendations of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. For further information, please refer to the following website: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/information-par-pays>

The deployment of volunteers is not authorised in areas classified as red by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Assignments in orange areas must be submitted for approval to the French embassies.

Areas requiring vigilance in Bolivia



Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

This map may be updated. For the latest version, please visit the website: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/information-par-pays>

Areas requiring vigilance in Brazil



- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Formellement déconseillé | ■ Vigilance renforcée |
| ■ Déconseillé sauf raison impérative | ■ Vigilance normale |

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

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Areas requiring vigilance in Colombia



- Formellement déconseillé
- Déconseillé sauf raison impérative
- Vigilance renforcée
- Vigilance normale

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

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Areas requiring vigilance in Ecuador



Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

This map may be updated. For the latest version, please visit the website:
<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/information-par-pays>

Areas requiring vigilance in Guyana



Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

This map may be updated. For the latest version, please visit the website: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/information-par-pays>

Areas requiring vigilance in Peru



- Formellement déconseillé
- Déconseillé sauf raison impérative
- Vigilance renforcée
- Vigilance normale

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

This map may be updated. For the latest version, please visit the website: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/information-par-pays>

Areas requiring vigilance in Suriname



- Formellement déconseillé
- Vigilance renforcée
- Déconseillé sauf raison impérative
- Vigilance normale

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 20/05/2026.

This map may be updated. For the latest version, please visit the website: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/information-par-pays>

Volunteering scheme	International Civic Service (SCI)	Reciprocal Civic Service (SCR)	Exchange and Skills Volunteering (VEC)
Assignment duration under the programme	Up to 7 months	Up to 7 months	Up to 3 months
Country of assignment	Bolivia Brazil Colombia Ecuador Guyana Peru Suriname	France (mainland France and the overseas departments located in the Caribbean and in French Guiana)	Bolivia Brazil Colombia Ecuador Guyana Peru Suriname
Volunteer nationality	French nationals or foreign nationals residing in France (please check the list of residence permits on the Civic Service Agency website)	Bolivian, Brazilian, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Guyanese, Peruvian, Surinamese	All nationalities
Assignment type / volunteer profile	Young people aged 18 to 25 (up to the day before their 26th birthday), extended to age 30 for young people with disabilities; No educational qualification, professional experience, or prior training is required.		Short-term assignments involving experts. Senior profiles, including retired professionals.
Implementation arrangements	Administrative management of the contract by an accredited organization. If the accredited organization has not been identified at the time of submission, France Volontaires will facilitate the connection.		Specialized organizations are members of France Volontaires and may take charge of recruitment and administrative management.