



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Is there a minimum or maximum age for volunteers to work at the Project?

Volunteers must be 21 years of age or over. There is no maximum age limit. All applicants are required to be in good health, physically mobile and willing to work in a socially challenging environment.

### 2. What should I expect on the island?

Ilha de Moçambique is a socially and culturally fascinating island in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of northern Mozambique. The island is approximately 3.5km in length and no greater than 500 meters at its widest point. The population totals approximately 17,000; the majority of whom live in "Makuti" town, at the southern end of the island.

Life moves slowly on the island, with few structured activities available to children or young adults, and unemployment levels are high. Most people live from tourism, fishing and small commerce.

The island has a significant position within Mozambican history, and attained UNESCO World Heritage Site denomination in 1991. The island does cater for tourists of all levels and consequently has a selection of local restaurants, hotels and hostels catering for the travellers and tourists that make it to the island.

### 3. What does the budget cover?

The specifics of the budget will be provided in greater detail on request, but the fundamental areas that the budget covers are discussed below:

#### **a) Accommodation**

The budget will cover accommodation needs. Where possible, accommodation will be organised prior to the volunteers' arrival, but once on the island, volunteers are free to find alternative accommodation that better suits their needs. However, please be aware that there is a fixed stipend for your stay and so we advise you to budget carefully.

#### **b) Food**

Basic food costs will be covered by the project. This amount is calculated using current food prices on the island and on the prior understanding that the volunteers buy their food locally, are able to cook for themselves (where possible) and do not eat extravagantly at tourist restaurants.

#### **c) Travel**

Due to the small size of Ilha de Moçambique, there is little need for travel costs on a day to day basis and it is possible to walk everywhere around the island. However, travel off the island, predominantly to the nearest city of Nampula, will be required to buy project materials and equipment, certain food ingredients and for the odd project excursion. In such cases reasonable travel costs will be covered by Project Oceano. Any expenses in all cases will be justified at the month's end report.

#### **d) Project Costs**

The majority of the money that volunteers receive in the budget will cover all internal project costs. This includes:

- Monthly rent of the project building
- Monthly payment for the security guard who monitors the project through the night
- Project maintenance, including computers, electricity, furniture, etc.
- Project materials and resources such as paper, pens, books, printer ink, etc.
- Specific project/programme costs that fit within the budget and are approved by the UK Project Manager

#### **4. Is Mozambique a safe country to live in?**

Mozambique is a safe country to live in, even for single women travellers who may find certain places in Africa unsafe. The island specifically is a very close-knit community and volunteers should feel at home and secure in the community, though as with everywhere in the world, petty crime does occur. Usually, however, volunteers will find the island to be a warm, welcoming and loving place to live and work as long as they are respectful of local customs and vigilant about their comings and goings.

#### **5. How does the project work?**

Projecto Oceano was founded in 2002 as a small social project with the principal objective of offering talented and ambitious students on the Ilha de Moçambique the opportunity to gain a qualification by completing a course in a mathematic/logical computer programme called LOGO. Since then, the project has developed into a more elaborate and innovative education and youth leadership project, focused on critical thinking and social entrepreneurship. This is achieved through a range of classes and activities that are led by the core group of project members – talented students from the island's secondary school – and cover subject areas such as IT, foreign affairs, social and community debates, study groups, the publication and of a community newsletter called 'Voz Jovem', foreign languages (English, French, Spanish), as well as more extra-curricular activities such as sport (Capoeira) and art.

In recent years, volunteers have put their mark on the project by initiating new programmes and classes in areas that fit within the AZLera approach and where the capacity to do so exists. Examples include the weekly holding a series of community debates at the museum on the island hosted by guest speakers, the creation of 'Voz Jovem' (the Projecto Oceano monthly newsletter), renovations of the project building and the creation of a children's library and comfortable community learning space.

The number of students at the project varies according to the number of different activities running at a certain time. In general, there are approximately 70 students associated to the project, who attend a range of classes and cultural events run through Projecto Oceano. The project is run principally by a group of 10 young students – the project members – who, together with the volunteers, develop and coordinate all project activities and events.

#### **6. What qualities are you looking for in a volunteer?**

Projecto Oceano is looking for volunteers that are **ambitious, strong minded, determined, confident, energetic, enthusiastic and fun**. Enjoyment and learning is at the heart of project and volunteers are encouraged to use their own skills, interests and capabilities to the benefit of the students, the project and the island. Volunteers who wish to work for Projecto Oceano must also be aware of the social situation on the Ilha de Moçambique, in terms of certain political, social and cultural barriers that often prevent or limit certain pursuits from being successful. Whilst an

appreciation of these aspects is vital, it must be stressed that Projecto Oceano is looking for volunteers who believe that positive change is possible in Mozambique when young people are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential, challenge themselves and push their island and their country forward.

#### **7. Do I have to be able to speak Portuguese to work at the Project?**

Yes, volunteers are expected to have a good knowledge of Portuguese. There is very little English spoken on the island. Children learn English at school and there are English classes at the Project, but volunteers would need to work and live in Portuguese every day.

Other languages, specifically Spanish, French, German or Italian would also be beneficial in terms of expanding the languages that are taught at the project – but these are not a requirement.

#### **8. What is there to do on the Ilha de Moçambique, outside of Projecto Oceano?**

The island is located in one of the most naturally beautiful parts of the world. Surrounded by deserted islands, a magical coral reef, turquoise seas and pristine beaches there is a lot to explore both on and off the island. Opposite the island there are the beaches and villages of Chocas Mar, Carrusca, and Cabaceira. To the West of Ilha de Moçambique are the islands of Goa, Sena and Seven Sticks (Ilha de Goa, Ilha de Sena and Ilha de Sete Paus).

On the island itself, free time can be spent swimming in the sea, lying on the beach, playing football or volleyball with the local kids, watching the locals train at Capoeira, wandering the streets taking in the unique atmosphere of the island or visiting the museum or fort to find out about the island's great but daunting history.

#### **9. Can I come with my partner/wife/husband/girlfriend/boyfriend etc?**

Yes, in certain circumstances we can accept couples, as long as you both are committed to working at the project and will offer the students something extra, i.e. bringing more skills, experience, support, etc. The budget can be adjusted to accommodate two people, but please indicate as early as possible if you will be applying as a couple.

#### **10. How much time can I have off whilst working at the Project?**

There is no strict rule for the amount of time off volunteers can take, but we would expect you to not take more than three weeks off over a six month period. Due to visa issues, volunteers are often required to leave the country once or twice during their stay and consequently they tend to coincide their time off with a trip to either Malawi or Tanzania to extend their visa. If you intend on taking substantial time off, you must inform and request permission from the Projecto Oceano coordinator.

#### **11. What is expected of a Projecto Oceano Volunteer?**

Volunteers are required to undertake the daily management and organisation of the Project both in the classroom and the community. Working alongside the teachers and students already in place at the project, volunteers will oversee the recruitment of new members, management of staff contracts, project budget and writing reports of all events and activities run through Projecto Oceano.

Volunteers will be responsible for generating and implementing new ideas, classes and activities appropriate to the Project and the island. Volunteers will be required to represent the project for all 'in-country' official functions, including working with the local institutions on the island and being seen as an advocate for the project for all prospective visitors, donors or guests.

It is necessary for volunteers to maintain, support and ensure the successful fulfilment of all Projecto Oceano initiatives, including:

- **Languages:** English, Portuguese, French and Spanish

- **Mathematics:** Maths and Logical Thinking
- **Information Technology:** Windows, Microsoft Office and LOGO
- **Social Debates:** Community-led Social Debates on the most pressing issues facing Mozambique, Africa and the wider world
- **Critical Thinking:** Classes to encourage students to analyse problems, to challenge the 'status quo' and to develop coherent solutions to prevalent local, national and global issues
- **Community Newspaper:** Monthly publication of Voz Jovem (available for download from [www.azlera.org](http://www.azlera.org)), a community newspaper written and managed by our leading students
- **CVs and Employment Classes:** Courses focused on progressing from secondary school education to tertiary education or employment, including CV writing
- **Study Groups:** Space provided throughout the year for students to study outside of school hours. Study Group allows access to supervised use of our libraries and I.T. systems
- **Academic Skills:** Core skills to prepare the students for the demands of further education, including essay writing and revision techniques
- **Extra-curricular Activities:** Positive recreational activities, including art classes, sport tournaments, & traditional dancing exhibitions (Capoeira)
- **Community Events:** Project participation in all community events and festivals
- **Project Administration Tasks:** managing the budget, monthly expense control and other miscellaneous tasks.

Volunteers are encouraged to lead or teach certain classes where the possibility for them to be taught by local students does not exist. This is achieved in agreement with the students and teachers at the project. Beyond the technical and academic opportunities, we constantly encourage our students to take ownership for different aspects of Projecto Oceano's curriculum. This approach ensures that our local students have maximum input into our areas of focus. It also teaches valuable life-skills around the importance of personal responsibility, people and task management, as well as the harder I.T. and organisational skills necessary for success in student and professional life.