

Volunteer proposal

Volunteer for Scientific Diving in Seagrass Restoration & Monitoring



Brief description of the volunteer proposal

We are seeking highly motivated and proactive volunteers to support the restoration and monitoring of seagrass ecosystems through scientific diving activities of LIFE RESTORE SEAGRASS. This is a hands-on role within an active marine restoration project, involving fieldwork and direct support to seagrass transplant monitoring activities. Volunteers will contribute to data collection, logistical operations, and in-water tasks, helping to enhance the conservation status, resilience, and biodiversity of seagrass meadows within the project area.

Proposed Tasks

Fieldwork volunteers will be trained in and assist with the following technical monitoring tasks:

- **Logistical Support for Transplants:** Assisting in the preparation, organization, and transport of seagrass units for replanting.
- **Dive Support (Surface & Underwater):** Providing assistance during diving operations, including equipment handling and monitoring support.
- **Monitoring Support:** Collecting standardized data, photoquadrats and photo-based documentation of planting units to support scientific analysis of seagrass growth and health.
- **Data Collection Support:** Assisting with the organization and basic handling of collected field data (e.g. images and records) to support ongoing monitoring.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Assisting the technical team in cleaning, checking, and preparing scientific and diving gear between field outings.



Information about the volunteer proposal

Duration: May to August 2026

Team Structure: We are looking for 3 to 4 volunteers to assist in the fieldwork tasks.

Schedule: A commitment of 2 to 3 days per week for a minimum period of 2 months.

Location: Portinho da Arrábida, Parque Marinho Luis Saldanha

Working Hours: Daytime schedule.

Specific Requirements

- **Diving Certification & Experience:** Minimum Open Water diving certification and proven experience (Minimum of 25 logged dives, preferred 5 in the last year).
- Ability to perform physical work in a marine environment and on boats.

Preferred Candidates

- **Academic Background:** Ongoing or completed degree in Biology, Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences, or related fields.
- **Personal Gear:** Candidates who possess their own complete diving equipment (suit, BCD, regulators) will be given preference.
- Previous experience in scientific diving or ecological fieldwork.
- Residence near the project location (Lisbon, Setubal or Sesimbra districts)

What we offer: In-depth training in seagrass monitoring techniques and scientific diving protocols, providing direct involvement in a high-impact LIFE-funded European conservation project. Participants will benefit from integration in a multidisciplinary team and the opportunity to develop hands-on conservation actions. Transportation to the fieldwork sites is covered and insurance during the fieldwork activities is provided. Additionally, volunteers will receive a volunteer certificate detailing the technical skills acquired and the total hours completed.

How to apply

To apply to this offer, please send us a resume of your academic background and other experiences, along with a small statement explaining why you are a suitable candidate for this position. Please use the subject 'Volunteer opportunity – Diving' and send your email to (fsobreira@ispa.pt; diogo.brito@ispa.pt; mscala@ispa.pt; hsantamaria@ispa.pt; monica.costa@spea.pt)