



CENTRAL AMERICA:
RESPONDING TO HURRICANE MITCH

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:
ELECTIONS IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

PERU:
SUPPORT FOR THE OMBUDSMAN



Dobrica Savic remembers: "It was almost by coincidence that I learned about a UNESCO project and a UNV opening in Sierra Leone. Equipped with several years of experience as the Deputy Director of the Yugoslav Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation and Master's degrees in International Politics and in Library and Information Science, I applied. The challenge would be great. The aim was to establish a new Development Documentation Centre (DDC) in the Ministry of National Development and Economic Planning. It was not an easy choice, however. I had a very interesting job in Yugoslavia, my wife was happily employed, my daughter was only five, and I had just renovated my apartment!

So it was a tough decision, but one I will never regret. The UNV project was a great success. In less than two years a fully functional DDC was established. A comprehensive set of development related documents was collected, organized and made available to the Ministry, to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone. Very quickly the DDC gained great popularity. Unfortunately the civil war that hit Sierra Leone closed many institutions including the DDC.

I left Africa at the end of 1988, worked for short while as a consultant for the World Bank, and then joined the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. I am still with ICAO where I am in charge of its Library and Archives, as well as its Web services.

My UNV assignment reinforced my belief that the only way to learn about development and the work that the UN system is doing is by taking part in some of its field activities. If you have the opportunity to become a UN Volunteer, don't hesitate to make your own contribution to development efforts. You will probably not change the world, but being a UNV will definitely change you."