



Virgin Islands  
Resource  
Conservation &  
Development  
Council, Inc.

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## Coral Bay / Fish Bay - Field/Lab Assistant Positions

The Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (V.I. RC&D) is seeking two (2) energetic assistants on a temporary, part-time basis to help implement a land-based environmental monitoring project at Coral Bay and Fish Bay in St. John. Candidates are expected to aid Dr. Carlos Ramos Scharrón (Principal Investigator, PI) in a soil erosion study by helping install, maintain, and monitor field equipment and by completing lab analyses of soil samples. Previous experience in scientific research is preferred but not required. Interested candidates should have an inclination towards environmental work, be independently motivated, possess solid quantitative and organizational skills, and be both able and willing to learn new field and lab techniques. The Field/Lab Assistant is expected to help the PI, but also to carry on with project tasks in the absence of the PI. Therefore candidates must be able to strictly follow instructions to assure the quality of the data collected. In addition, the field component of this project requires a willingness to endure uncomfortable physical labor, including exposure to extreme weather conditions, heavy lifting, long work days, and hiking, all while maintaining the expected data quality standards needed for the project. Candidates must also have basic computer skills, especially familiarity with Excel software, and have their own means of transportation.

### **Specific tasks:**

1. Stream gauging stations
  - a. Installation
    - Install 4-5 stream gauging stations in guts draining towards Fish Bay and Coral Bay
    - Conduct longitudinal and cross-sectional profiles of guts at gauging station
    - Receive training on station maintenance, water sample collection, data downloads, and data transfer protocols
  - b. Maintenance
    - Battery maintenance
    - Water sampler positioning, etc.
  - c. Monitoring
    - Conduct velocity profiles during low to moderate flows
    - Download and transfer data to PI
    - Collect and transfer water samples to the lab
  - d. Laboratory analyses
    - Moisture content of sediment samples collected from sediment traps
    - Dry sieving of selected samples from eroding surfaces and from material obtained from sediment traps
    - Concentration of suspended solids of water samples collected from the guts
  - e. Lab data entry into Excel spreadsheets and data transfer to PI
2. Rain gauge monitoring (once every two weeks)
  - Data downloads and data transfers to PI
  - Site maintenance (vegetation clearing around rain gauge, leveling instrument, battery replacement)

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### *Making Things Happen!*

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3. Sediment traps
  - a. Installation
    - ~3-5 sediment traps on undisturbed surfaces
    - ~6-8 traps on unvegetated, undisturbed surfaces close to cliffs
    - ~6 traps on existing trail (traps removed during trail repair work)
    - ~10-15 traps on improved trail
  - b. Data collection
    - Trap maintenance (~1 every two weeks or following significant rainfall events)
    - Measurement (weighing & collection of sediment samples)
    - Field data entry into Excel spreadsheets
    - Electronic data transfer to PI
  - c. Lab analyses
    - Proper sample storage prior to analyses
    - Moisture content analyses
    - Particle-size distribution analyses based on the dry-sieving method
    - Data entry into Excel spreadsheets
    - Electronic data transfer to PI
4. Characterization of study sites
  - Slope measurements with clinometer
  - Surface texture: sample collection and particle-size distribution analyses
  - Vegetation and coarse rock cover density of eroding surfaces using the point count method and with digital photographs
5. Reporting: Submit monthly report to PI on third day of each month. Report must include info on data collected, lab analyses results, site characterization, any difficulties encountered and recommendations for correction. Reports must be copied to the V.I. RC&D Grant Project Manager.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, references & proof of citizenship to V.I. RC&D /  
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*V.I. RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer*