

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Climate Change and Environment Adviser
Country	Solomon Islands
Location	Gizo, Western Province
Partner Organisation	Western Provincial Government
Duration	24 Months
Sustainable Development Goals	

41760

1. Partner organisation overview

The Western Province is the largest of the nine provinces of Solomon Islands and is renowned for its beautiful tropical islands and world class diving and snorkelling locations. Beautiful coral reefs, WWII wrecks, eco-tourism lodges and headhunting shrines are other attractions in the province that makes it the biggest tourist destination outside of Honiara.

The Western Provincial Government (WPG) has been operating since 1978 when the country became independent. The province has its own Provincial Government Administration head by a Clerk. The role of the WPG is to develop the province, particularly rural areas. Planning is an important part of the WPG's activities as this helps to ensure that development occurs in a considered manner.

The WPG is keen to focus on climate change and environment due to the negative impacts that climate change has on communities, and the desire for communities to be environment friendly. Because Western Province is especially vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, there is need to have in place an environment and climate change policy that will set the direction of the Western Province in how to address climate change and environmental issues. This policy will be aligned with the Solomon Islands Government National Development Strategy.

2. Assignment overview

The purpose of this assignment is to support the WPG with development of a climate change and environment policy to ensure that the WPG and communities work together to support developments that address climate change and environmental issues. There is also need for environmental impact assessments to be conducted on proposed dumpsites, logging and milling operations, and a market.

A volunteer is being sought to support staff of the WPG to undertake environmental impact assessments and support the development of a climate change and environment policy.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

Western Provincial Government developments are guided by a clear and concise climate change and environment policy.



Outcome 1

Staff have and are using environmental impact assessment reports for key developments.

- Provide technical support and advice to WPG Environmental Officer on requirements for EIARs.
- Working alongside the WPG Environmental Officer, conduct environmental impact assessments.
- Provide reports for each environmental impact assessment done.

Outcome 2

Western Provincial Government has an environment and climate change policy that guides the work done in this area.

Working alongside the WPG Environmental Officer:

- Develop understanding on environment and climate change issues affecting the province
- Conduct consultation on key issues and measures to be taken to mitigate the risks and impacts associated with climate change.
- Conduct consultation on what people currently do that impacts the environment and find ways of changing behaviours.
- Produce a policy on environment and climate change.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer Climate Change and Environment Adviser will work with the WPG staff team, in a manner that supports shared learning during development of a climate change and environmental policy, and while conducting other work such as environmental impact assessments. They will report directly to the Deputy Provincial Secretary

The volunteer will design and deliver initiatives that support ongoing learning, mentoring and coaching to staff in the team.

The volunteer and the WPG will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.



5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Qualification in environmental science or related study
- Be well-versed with environmental law
- Experience conducting environmental impact assessments
- Experience in policy development
- The ability to formulate, understand and participate in budgetary processes

Desirable

- Have extensive network with environmental groups, donors and other project initiatives to do with environment/conservation and climate change
- Knowledgeable on legal matters and be able to draft 'drafting instructions'
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Familiarity with SI Environment sector

Person specifications (personal)

Essential

- Ability to fit in well in a work environment where internet connectivity may not be always reliable
- Friendly and be able to relate to the local environment
- Be able cope with situations like long spell of dry weather, no water and other natural calamities
- Be willing to travel by OBM and may involve travelling and sleeping rough
- Willingness to learn and speak SI Pijin
- Flexible

Desirable

- Experience living and working in a Melanesian country/low resource setting

VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation.
- Cross cultural awareness.
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively.
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community.
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks.
- Initiative and resourcefulness.
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange.

6. Living Situation



Honiara is the business centre of Solomon Islands and as such is a melting pot for people from all the island groups that make up the diverse nation. A hot and dusty place, Honiara offers most facilities albeit in a rudimentary form. The main international airport is in Honiara.

Gizo is the capital of Western Province and is the second largest town in Solomon Islands. It is located on Ghizo Island and is west-north-west of Honiara. It is a five-minute boat ride from Nusatupe where the airplane landing strip is located.

Gizo has a population of just over 7,000 residents. It is a tourism centre with diving and surfing being popular activities. There is a thriving market where you can buy fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood every day. You are strongly encouraged to build relationships in the local community and socialise with Solomon Islanders at every opportunity, as this will enrich your experience of living in Solomon Islands.

VSA will provide basic, furnished accommodation with gas facilities for cooking. You will have access to power (although power outages can occur), phone, internet, piped water, a few restaurants, a few shops and a few expatriates. Public transport is relatively cheap.

Most volunteers feel safe in Solomon Islands, but it is important to know the risks and take personal responsibility for your safety. As in many countries, foreigners tend to be the target of petty crime, so always be alert and take precautions. In general, there are no problems moving around in Gizo.

For more information, see <https://vsa.org.nz/what-we-do/countryregion/solomon-islands/>.

Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However, volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

Volunteers are encouraged to fundraise at least \$1000 with the support of VSA's fundraising team. Accompanying partners are encouraged to raise the same amount. All funds raised will help VSA keep its programmes in action and support future volunteers.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be inoculated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with



children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

1. Volunteers will receive an establishment grant of NZ\$750 to help them set up in their country of assignment. For volunteers with an accompanying partner (whether that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1,100 per couple.
2. For two-year assignments, the volunteer will receive a rest and respite grant of NZ\$1000 on completion of the first year.
3. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
4. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of SBD 7,000.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. For security purposes volunteers in Honiara should expect to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract prior to departure.

