

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Urban Landscaper/Nursery Adviser
Country	Solomon Islands
Location	Honiara
Partner Organisation	Solo Enviro Beautification
Duration	18 months
Sustainable Development Goals	



41819

1. Partner organisation overview

Solo Enviro Beautification (SEB) enhances Honiara’s environmental landscape for the benefit of residents and tourists through the development of quality landscape designs with the support of a well-managed and maintained nursery. In November 2022 the Solomon Islands will start the 365-day countdown to the start of the South Pacific Games that the country is hosting. Plans are underway to “clean and green” the City of Honiara and immediate surrounds in preparation for an influx of over 5,000 overseas visitors and athletes.

SEB is currently the only organisation in the country in a position to meet the challenge of creating & maintaining a green city.

Whilst long established and fairly well resourced, SEB requires strengthening through support and training in implementing the many landscaping projects it has been asked to undertake. SEB currently has approximately 30 gardeners and casual staff, and seven admin and security staff.

2. Assignment overview

An urban landscape volunteer will support the organisation to produce an environmental landscape that will enhance city living and provide an attractive venue for citizens, tourists and business development. The volunteer will work alongside staff and volunteers of SEB to ensure that they get the support they need to upskill themselves in identified areas.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

An environmentally enhanced city of Honiara that showcases Solomon Islands flora and fauna.

Outcome 1

SEB understands is making decisions on the work they could be doing to enhance beautification of Honiara.

- Review what the organisation is currently doing in urban landscaping and in the nursery.
- Gain understanding of what other flora and fauna could be introduced in the work SEB does.
- Provide recommendations on changes that can be made to beautify Honiara and have a productive nursery.



Outcome 2

Landscaping skills are transferred to management and gardeners at SEB

- Design training materials to support capacity building of staff in urban landscaping.
- Design training materials of maintenance of a productive nursery and management of it.
- Conduct training sessions for staff and volunteers.

Outcome 3

Honiara has enhanced flora and fauna in public places.

- Identify resources to be used for beautification in different areas around the city.
- Use arborist skills and knowledge to beautify Honiara.
- Introduce new areas of work to enhance the nursery.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will report to the SEB management team. The volunteer will work with the Manager and other SEB staff on a day-to-day basis, including supervisors and workers.

Capacity building will be achieved through working together with SEB staff, as well as by providing regular training on landscaping design in an urban setting. For the nursery, the volunteer will provide training and work closely with existing staff to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

The volunteer and SEB 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 as an urban landscaper, arborist and or minimum of two years' experience
- Ability to work with limited resources and through tough situations such as tropical heat and humidity

Desirable

- Experience working in the Pacific country as a landscaper or arborist



Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Able to adapt to basic conditions
- Cultural sensitivity
- Willingness to learn how to speak pijin
- Excellent problem-solving abilities
- Great organisational and communication skills
- Friendly and open
- Transparent
- Easy to work with and allows constructive critique of their work
- Supportive and inspiring
- Flexible
- Good relationship management
- Willingness to undertake occasional travel to some locations outside Honiara with basic living conditions

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Cross cultural awareness
- Ability to work with limited resources and through tough situations such as tropical heat and humidity
- Willingness to learn and communicate in Solomon Islands Pijin
- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- 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
- Good communication skills
- Able to adaptable to basic conditions

7. Country context

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. 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 Solomons. However, entertainment options are few and far between so there is also a very active expatriate social scene. There are various clubs and social groups in Honiara, which you will get to know with time.

VSA will provide basic, furnished accommodation with gas facilities for cooking. In Honiara, you will have access to power (although power outages can occur), phone, internet, piped water, restaurants, a variety of shops and a large expatriate population. Public transport is very cheap within Honiara. The local bus service is provided by a plethora of vans, and some larger buses. A single fare of SBD3 applies, regardless of the length of the trip. Taxis charge a moderate fare (currently SBD10 per kilometre) but it is wise to establish a fare before commencing a journey.

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 the majority of Honiara during the day, but it is not safe to walk or catch public transport alone in Honiara after dark.



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 or not that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1,100 per couple.
2. 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.
3. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of SBD 6,500.

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.

