

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Climate Change Adviser
Assignment Modality	Standard
Assignment Number	41921
Country	Solomon Islands
Location	Honiara
Partner Organisation	World Vision Solomon Islands
Duration	24 months

Sustainable Development Goals



Business Development Partner

World Vision



1. Partner Organisation Overview

World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) is one of the largest and most experienced non-government agencies in Solomon Islands. The organisation has been in Solomon Islands for over 30 years and currently employ nearly 150 staff. WVSI works in five provinces including Guadalcanal, Makira-Ulawa, Malaita, Temotu, Central and the capital Honiara.

WVSI works to promote children's health throughout all their projects. Their aim is to improve the overall well-being of children by increasing community knowledge on health issues, nutrition, and pregnancy. WVSI also focuses on providing valuable clean and safe water, and encourages improved hygiene. Their education and economic projects aim to improve lifestyles and nutrition for children and their communities.

Climate change is currently an important area that WVSI is working in and would like to continue to support communities to find ways of preparing for, mitigating against, adapting, and responding to climate change issues. WVSI aims to strategically grow its Climate Change Adaptation and Conservation portfolio by 2025 to provide greater support to building the resilience of communities and Households on the front lines of the fight against climate change. WVSI would also like to support communities to benefit from carbon trading.

2. Assignment Overview

While WVSI is strong in its implementation and community mobilization, the organisation needs more support in the climate change technical area. WVSI currently relies on the technical expertise of support offices as well as the regional office but we would like to have in-house technical expertise. A VSA



volunteer is being sought to support with growing WVSI's climate change adaptation and conservation portfolio to provide greater support to building the resilience of communities and households. The volunteer would support WVSI to develop its strategic intent.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

WVSI meets Climate Change project deliverables, making impact and communities resilience increased.

Outcome 1

WVSI understands its current capacity in climate change and is deciding on what actions to take to build capacity.

Working closely with senior staff and alongside colleagues:

- Observe staff work and practices in climate change;
- Gain understanding of current levels of skills, knowledge and experience in climate change;
- Gain understanding of key climate change issues in Solomon Islands that are important for the work of WVSI;
- Identify areas in which staff need support to develop their skills; and
- Produce a written report on findings with recommendations for steps to be taken to build staff capacity.

Outcome 2

WVSI has resources and a capacity building programme in place.

- Develop training resources to upskill staff on climate change;
- Identify resources from the Pacific and beyond that can be used for capacity building in Solomon Islands;
- Identify no to low cost studies that interested staff can take online.

Outcome 3

WVSI staff have the capacity to engage in climate change work to high standards

- Conduct training sessions on different aspects of climate change;
- Support staff to conduct their work in communities;
- Mentor and coach staff as required;
- Work alongside staff.

Outcome 4

WVSI has sound technical input to include in project proposals.

- Work with staff to provide input into project proposals to ensure that climate change issues are put across correctly.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will primarily communicate and work closely with the Sector Portfolio Manager for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Action. The volunteer will provide support to staff through mentoring, coaching, training and resource development using a strengths-based approach.

The volunteer will report directly to the Program Quality, Resource Development and External Engagement Manager.



The volunteer and WWSI 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 reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Professional Specifications

Essential

- Qualification in climate change, international development or related field
- At least three years' experience working in the field of climate change
- Solid understanding of climate change issues in the Pacific particularly interconnections between various ecological systems
- Experience in project management

Desirable

- Experience in data analysis and visualization related to climate change
- Familiarity with environmental policies, regulations, and legal frameworks
- Experience with waste management practices, carbon credit generation, sustainable agriculture, renewable technologies and/or other mitigation measures.
- Previous experience working in a Melanesian country

Personal Specification

Essential

- Creative
- Resilient
- Confident
- Open Minded
- Team Player
- Culturally aware
- Strong leadership
- Calculated risk taker
- Values networking and collaboration

6. 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

7. Country Context

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

8. Living and Working 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. 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.

The volunteer will be based in Honiara. The office is located near the VSA Solomon Islands office (3 km) and close to NZ High Commission Office. WVSI Honiara office currently has sufficient office space and housing around 30 staff. The volunteer will be expected to travel to the field in remote areas in Malaita, Weather Coast of Guadalcanal, Makira, and Temotu.

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

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers and accompanying partners to fundraise to help cover the cost of sending volunteers throughout the Pacific and beyond. Fundraising can be as simple as doing something you enjoy with a group or friends, and our Fundraising team is available to help you every step of the way.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be vaccinated, 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 SBD7,500.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances, volunteers may be asked 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.

