

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Climate Change Projects Assistant
Assignment Modality	UniVol Assignment
Assignment Number	42169
Country	Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea
Location	Buka
Partner Organisation	Plan International – Papua New Guinea



Duration 10 months

Sustainable Development Goals



1. Partner Organisation Overview

Plan is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that has been working in Papua New Guinea since 2015, and currently operates the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB).

The current programming in ARoB is focused on:

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- Climate change
- Water sanitation and hygiene
- Disaster risk reduction

Plan partners with local organisations at a range of levels in ARoB to support with achieving project outcomes.

Plan operates offices in both Buka and Arawa. These offices are part of the Plan Asia Pacific Region.

2. Assignment Overview

Plan are implementing new climate change projects in ARoB, project title; Youth Centred Climate Community Eco-Resilience Program (Y3CER) – Papua New Guinea in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Bougainville with the outcomes of these projects focusing on:

Outcome 1: Learn and adapt

Young women, men, and their communities understand the gendered risks and impacts of climate change, can record loss and damage and implement and/or advocate for adaptive practices at a household and community level.

Outcome 2: Nature-based resilience

Youth and women's groups can identify and/or implement locally appropriate forms of NbS that enhance biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and support climate-resilient food and water systems.

Outcome 3: Green and blue livelihoods

Young women have the skills, motivation and equal opportunity to increase their income generation and savings through diversified green and blue livelihood opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture and nature-positive micro-enterprises.

Outcome 4: Transformed Policy Environment

Youth and women's groups have strengthened capacity to collectively analyse and contribute to the design and implementation of equitable development initiatives and climate change policy.

Outcome 5: Strong Civil Society

Civil society organizations and women-led organisations in the Pacific have enhanced technical capacity, leadership and management to address key climate and gender challenges in the region.

This project comes under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). VSA has previously had two UniVols supporting Plan on this and other similar projects in ARoB.

A well-suited graduate volunteer will work alongside the Plan International team in Buka to support them in delivering on these outcomes through growing staff capacity.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

Plan is effectively implementing its climate change projects in ARoB, in accordance with design and plans that meet their donor requirements.

Outcome 1

Plan project managers are meeting the reporting requirements of donors.

Outputs:

- Work with project managers to ensure sound understanding of reporting requirements for climate projects in ARoB.
- Assist project managers in implementing reporting systems provided by either Plan or donors.
- Support project managers to design systems that are fit for purpose to collect required reporting data.
- Where necessary, engage with the regional advisor for Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning to ensure systems are fit for purpose and contextual for ARoB.

Outcome 2

Climate Change projects implemented by Plan are designed and implemented in accordance with project requirements specified by donors.

Outputs:

- Work with project staff to ensure best practices are followed during the design phase.

- Support staff with developing basic implementation plans (broken down by quarters and months).
- Work with project staff to ensure that local partners understand their responsibilities and how they will engage with the project.
- Support project staff to ensure that partnerships with local organisations is well managed and grows capacity of those partners.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will be placed to work within the Plan Bougainville Buka Office on a daily basis. This will provide the core opportunity for shared learning and capacity building of the team through one-on-one mentoring, coaching, observation of the volunteer by team members, possible internal trainings facilitated by the volunteer. Day to day, the volunteer will be working with the project team. The volunteer will report to and have a strong relationship with the Country Programme Manager. The volunteer will also develop a strong working relationship with the Plan Regional Office and its staff.

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

- A bachelor's degree in an environmental field, preferably with a specialty in climate change.
- Experience stakeholder engagement
- Excellent computer skills and ability knowledge of MS Excel & MS Word

Desirable

- Experience working in an NGO or development organisation
- Knowledge of monitoring and evaluation and /or programme planning
- Knowledge of donor reporting requirements/systems
- Strong written communication skills
- Qualification(s) in international development

Personal Specifications

Essential

- Community-minded, with a willingness to learn about, and respect Bougainvillean values and protocols
- Ability to work in a cross-cultural environment
- A willingness to learn the local language (Tok Pisin)
- Ability to exercise initiative, work independently, and solve problems
- The ability to adapt to changing situations, and be flexible to change where factors may be beyond your control

- Willingness to travel to remote locations and work in rural environments

Desirable

- Experience working and living in a developing country
- Experience working in a capacity building role

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

Autonomous Region of Bougainville – Papua New Guinea

Bougainville is a warm and vibrant Autonomous Region within Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is the easternmost region of PNG and sits on the border with the Solomon Islands. Going back many decades, the region has a strong sense of identity and culture, that is distinct from other parts of PNG, and something that Bougainvillians are very proud of.

The region was been passed between colonial powers for many years, until being passed from the Australian-administered Territory of New Guinea, to the newly independent nation of Papua New Guinea in 1975. By this time the opencast copper and gold mine at Panguna has started operation, which was one of the largest in the world at the time. The mine quickly came to account for nearly half of PNG's export revenue, underlining the economic importance of Bougainville. However, the mine brought significant environmental and social issues that had not been seen in Bougainville before. By the late 1980s, what begun as a low-scale sabotage campaign to bring about dialogue on compensation for landowners, descended into a complete breakdown in law and order, accompanied by the closure of the mine. In the decade that followed, The Bougainville Crisis became complex in nature, with elements of internal conflict emerging alongside the desire for independence. The signing of the Peace Agreement in 2001 brought the conflict to an end, and in the years since Bougainville has been steadily rebuilding its public and private sectors.

While Bougainville does still have its challenges as it continues to recover from The Crisis, it provides a unique opportunity for dedicated and adventurous volunteers who are skilled in their respective fields to work alongside their local Bougainvillean counterparts to achieve locally-identified development goals. The region is rich in culture and is unbelievably beautiful, with volunteers finding ample opportunities to immerse themselves in all aspects of the local environment.

VSA has been working in Bougainville since 1998, when it entered into Arawa towards the end of the conflict. In the years since, VSA has supported local organisations across a range of sectors including health, education, agriculture, and tourism. VSA has built a strong reputation in Bougainville, and is committed to continuing to work in the region.

8. Living and Working Situation

Buka

Buka is a vibrant and optimistic town located in the north of Bougainville. It is actually situated on Buka Island, which is separated from the main Bougainville Island by a 400-meter-wide stretch of water known as the Buka Passage. This passage can be crossed in one of the many small boats that run during daylight hours.

The climate is hot and humid all year round, with daily temperatures of 25 to 35 degrees. November to May can bring more rain and unsettled weather (this is the tropical cyclone season in the South Pacific), however daily rain is common at any time of the year.

Buka is the administrative centre of Bougainville and houses the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), along with the offices of its many departments. Now days it is a busy place with growth in the public sector, private sector, and also an increasing number of NGOs and foreign partners.

Buka is well serviced with shops, a couple of bars, a handful of restaurants, a post office, a bank, a bakery, and a general hospital. Located in the centre of town is the main market, selling with a wide variety of locally grown, organic, and seasonal produce all at a very reasonable price. A small number of shops import some food items from Australia and New Zealand, and you can often find what you require (although it may be a bit more expensive than what you are accustomed to).

Buka is serviced by 6x flights a week at an airport on the edge of the town. All roads within Buka town are sealed, and the main road up Buka Island is sealed. Transport south down Bougainville Island is possible during weekdays, and takes around 4 hours in a Toyota Landcruiser vehicle. Boats are available for hire from the main boat stop in Buka for fishing and island hopping. Unfortunately, there are no reliable boats from Buka to the neighbouring provinces (New Ireland and East New Britain).

Outside of work, volunteers often find themselves socialising with colleagues or local friends, other volunteers, or other expats on the weekends. Day trips on the boats are always a great way to spend a sunny day, with a number of stunning islands located in close proximity to Buka. There are a couple of beaches that are accessible for use (although it should be noted that beaches still require permission for access in Bougainville). Many volunteers get involved in the wider community, through sport, church, or small projects.

Infrastructure in Buka continues to improve with each passing year. Currently there are three different mobile network providers, all offering reliable, fast, and reasonably priced service. The town power in Buka comes from diesel generators, and blackouts still can occur but are becoming less frequent.

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

Partners or dependent children cannot accompany UniVols.

Fundraising

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers 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. The volunteer may be entitled to an establishment grant to help them set up in their country of assignment, and a rest and respite grant after a specified period of active service in-country to encourage the volunteer to take a break away from the immediate assignment location. These grants depend on the length and location of the assignment. The volunteer's contract will specify any grant entitlements.
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 PGK 2,100.

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.