

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment title	Energy Efficiency Adviser
Country	Tonga
Location	Nuku'alofa
Partner organisation	Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Duration	18-24 months
Sustainable Development Goals	



41245

1. Assignment goal

PCREEE staff are confidently auditing local agencies and assisting with the implementation of recommendations, enabling energy consumers to develop a greater awareness of energy consumption and efficiency.

2. Assignment outcomes

Outcome 1

The capacity and knowledge of local business owners and key consumers about energy efficiency activities, is strengthened.

Outputs

- Work with local PCREEE staff to develop energy efficiency awareness workshops for businesses and key consumers
- Mentor local staff to facilitate national workshops, conducted throughout the region

Outcome 2

The capacity and knowledge of local PCREEE staff about how to carry out energy audits, is strengthened.

Outputs

- Train and mentor local PCREEE staff in carrying out an energy efficiency audit
- Mentor PCREEE staff to develop and deliver hands-on auditing exercises conducted in major energy consumption premises in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories
- Following the audits, work with local staff to develop recommendations for the auditees
- Train and mentor staff in delivering audit results and recommendation to auditees
- Train and mentor staff in following up and measuring results and impacts of energy efficiency audits



Outcome 3

The profile and awareness of energy efficiency is increased amongst communities across the Pacific Island Countries and Territories

Outputs

Mentor local PCREEE staff to:

- Develop energy efficiency awareness workshops in schools
- Coordinate communications and national events to raise awareness and the profile of energy efficiency in the region

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the assignment description on arrival and during the assignment in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA programme manager.

3. Reporting and working relationships

The volunteer will report directly to, and be accountable to, the Manager of PCREEE.

On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the Programme Delivery Officer and the Energy Efficiency Officer.

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

4. Capacity building

The volunteer will work alongside the Programme Delivery Officer, the Energy Efficiency Officer and other local PCREEE staff, building their knowledge and capacity in the areas of energy efficiency.

They will work alongside the staff to train and educate local businesses, commercial enterprises and the public sector, in reviewing and improving their energy consumption.

The volunteer will work with PCREEE partners across the Pacific Island Countries and Territories ensuring the capacity of staff across the region is increased, and helping them to improve knowledge amongst their own communities.

5. Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Tertiary qualification in sustainability, building science, energy management, engineering, environmental management, or related discipline
- Relevant technical experience and knowledge of energy auditing and energy efficiency
- Experience in conducting training workshops
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to think strategically

Desirable

- Ability to analyse situations and make sound decisions, sometimes with limited information



6. Person specifications (personal)

Essential

- Respect for SPC corporate values
- Diplomatic skills and tact
- Ability to work with people from different cultures and varying skill levels
- Team work

Additional information

Residency status

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

Partner organisation

The volunteer's partner organisation will be the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

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.

Vulnerable Children 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 Vulnerable Children 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. 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, for up to a maximum of 24 months.
4. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of \$1065 TOP

- **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 prior to departure.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Background to the assignment

Appendix 2: Living situation

Appendix 3: Tonga



Appendix 1: Background to the Assignment

Assignment focus

The volunteer will provide much needed Energy Efficiency support for the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

The role will focus on:

- Building the capacity of local PCREEE staff to carry out energy audits and implement the results
- Improve the knowledge amongst key consumers and local communities about improved energy consumption

Partner organisation

PCREEE is part of The Pacific Community (SPC).

SPC works for the wellbeing of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge, guided by a deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures.

SPC is owned and governed by its 26 Pacific country and territory members. It provides technical, advisory, statistical and information support to its member governments and administrations, particularly in areas where small island states lack the resources to maintain purely national centres of expertise, or in areas where regional co-operation or interaction is necessary.

The Pacific's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) is based in Nuku'alofa, Tonga and is part of a wider network of regional and sustainable energy centres for small island developing states (SIDS) in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean.

The purpose of the PCREEE is to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and energy efficient economies, by empowering the private sector to lead and to invest.

The goals of the PCREEE are:

- Enhanced regional institutional capacities through the creation of the efficiently managed and financially sustainable Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)
- The strengthened capacity of local key institutions and stakeholder groups through the up-scaling and replication of certified training and applied research programs and mechanisms
- Enhanced awareness of key stakeholder groups on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) opportunities through the up-scaling of regional mechanisms for data and knowledge management and advocacy
- Increased RE&EE business opportunities for local companies and industry through the execution of regional investment promotion programs and tailored financial schemes

Working situation

The volunteer will be based within the PCREEE office, located on the top Floor of the O.G .Sanft Building. The PCREEE exists side by side with the Energy Division and is in the same building as the Ministry of Energy, Information, Disaster, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECCC) and its Climate Change Division as well as the National Emergency Management Office (NIMO).

The office is located close to Western Union and the ANZ Bank, coffee shops and cafes, supermarket and market.

While based in Tonga, the volunteer will work across all 22 locations, a full and busy role but with the incentive of seeing the whole of the Pacific!



Appendix 2: Living Situation

Nuku'alofa

Nuku'alofa is the capital of the Kingdom of Tonga. It has a population of around 23,500 and is located on the north coast of the island of Tongatapu. Tongatapu is far enough from the equator to enjoy a mild and comfortable climate. Winter (July to September) temperatures tend to be around 18°C --27°C and Summer (December to April) temperatures are around 22°C -- 35°C but cooler nights are not unusual. Tonga lies in the southern hemisphere's storm belt and experiences frequent cyclone activity.

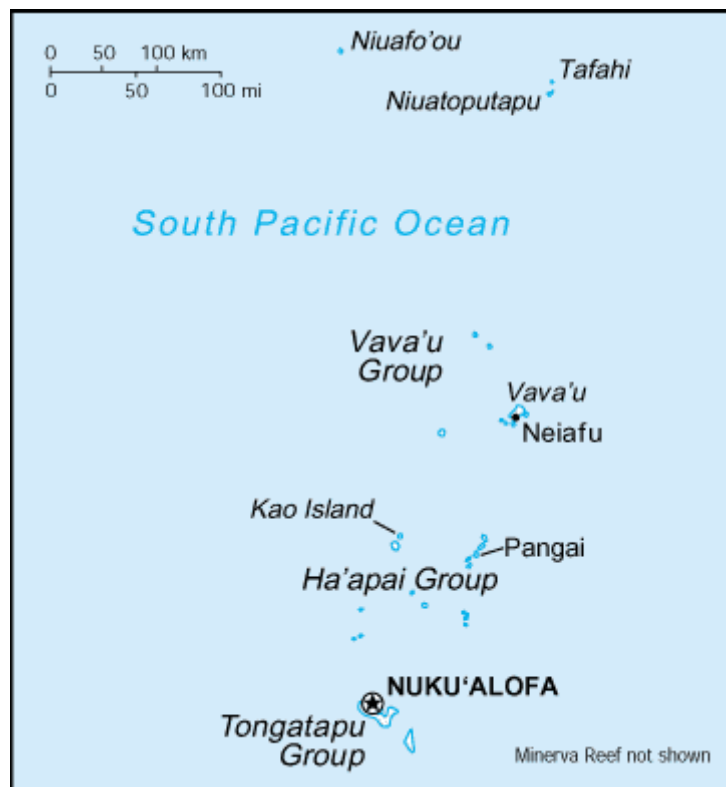
A reasonable variety of imported and local food are available in Nuku'alofa. The central market has a good assortment of locally grown foods, including fresh fruit and vegetables. Grocery stores supply imported goods but luxuries items can be expensive. Nuku'alofa has a number of foreign exchange outlets such as Western Union as well as two banks, the Bank South Pacific (BSP) and ANZ. The Tongan currency is the Pa'anga. Nuku'alofa is served by Vaiola Hospital (Tonga's main hospital) a 10-minute drive from Nuku'alofa as well as a number of pharmacies. Hospital staff are well trained, however the equipment and facilities are limited. Local buses and taxis run on Tongatapu but many volunteers prefer to get around by walking or by bicycle.

Internet is widely available in internet cafes throughout Tongatapu, but it is expensive to have internet access installed in one's home. Tonga has two mobile network providers, TCC (the local Tongan telecom provider) and Digicel. Both service providers run good deals and have good signal around Nuku'alofa.

Religion is an important part of life and Tongans attend church regularly and bless each meal, meeting and event with a prayer. Almost all Tongans belong to one of the 20 or so denominations in Tonga including Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon). Laws concerning the Sabbath are strictly upheld in Tonga, and virtually everything closes on Sundays, except for emergency facilities, bakeries and some tourist facilities.



Appendix 3: Tonga



(Map courtesy of wikipedia.org)

The Kingdom of Tonga consists of 176 islands in four major groups, Tongatapu, Ha'apai, Vava'u, and the Niuas, which form a narrow archipelago extending north from the Tropic of Capricorn. Tonga has a population of around 104, 000, 97% of whom are Polynesian, with 70% living on the main island of Tongatapu.

Tonga is a Hereditary Constitutional Monarchy which has a government composed of a Sovereign, Privy Council, Cabinet (the Prime Minister, Ministers of the Crown) and a parliamentary legislature. The head of state is King Tupou VI.

The Kingdom of Tonga is the only South Pacific country never to have been colonised by a foreign power, and the kingship has been passed down through many generations, beginning in the 10th century. Tongan culture is strongly stratified and has a three-tiered class system made up of royalty, nobles and commoners determined by heredity. This system determines the roles and responsibilities for the different groups.

Tongans have a well-developed sense of community based on a close-knit extended family unit and a close affiliation to their church. Members of Tongan families take care of one another almost unconditionally. One's immediate family includes grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. In many cases, the entire family works together to plant, harvest, cook, and fish. Children typically live with parents or grandparents after marriage.

The Tongan economy is primarily agrarian, supplemented by fishing, tourism, and remittances from Tongans living and working in other countries. Significant exports are made to Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America, including coconut products, vanilla, squash, kava, peppers, tomatoes, watermelons and limes. Tonga is heavily dependent on aid programmes.

Tonga has significant development challenges:

- Economic: Tonga's small domestic market, skill shortages, high cost of power and variable domestic transport services, low savings rates, the high costs of doing business, and high youth unemployment.



- Education: despite universal access to basic education, inequities exist in the quality of education. This is particularly prevalent in the secondary system where there is a distinct disparity between government and non-government providers.
- Natural disasters: Tonga lies in the southern hemisphere's storm belt and experiences frequent cyclone activity. In March 2000, tropical cyclone Mona caused an estimated \$US3 million damage to houses and infrastructure and a similar amount in agricultural losses. The impact of cyclones, earthquakes and tsunami on small island nations like Tonga can be greatly amplified as disruptions to infrastructure, agriculture and ecosystems (estuaries etc.) can affect the livelihoods of individuals and the nation for many years.

For more information on Tonga, see

- Tongan government website: <http://www.tongaportal.gov.to/>
- Economic overview: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/tonga>
- New Zealand Aid Programme in Tonga: <https://www.aid.govt.nz/where-we-work/pacific/tonga>

VSA in Tonga

VSA's programme in the Kingdom of Tonga dates back to 1965 with initial volunteers working largely in education. VSA complete its work in education in 2005 and in 2012 began sending volunteers with a primary focus on economic development but also in other targeted areas. The programme is managed by in-country Programme Manager, Tina Mackie.

General Security

Tonga has very minimal security concerns in comparison to other parts of the Pacific. However, volunteers are required to be security conscious and adhere to the advice of their partner organisations, VSA and the NZ Embassy in Nuku'alofa on security matters. If there is a major emergency or should security deteriorate, VSA has established evacuation procedures and volunteers will be fully supported by staff Wellington. Volunteers will go through the ground security measures on arrival in-country and develop an individual safety and security plan.

