

Assignment Title	Forestry Advisor
Country	Bougainville, PNG
Location	Buka
Partner Organisation	National Forestry Service (Bougainville Regional Office)
Accountable to	Regional Forestry Officer
Reporting to	Regional Forestry Officer

1. ASSIGNMENT PURPOSE

To assist the Bougainville Regional Forestry Office develop forestry policy that supports environmental, economic and socially sustainable management practices that are specific to Bougainville.

2. ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND INDICATORS

Objective 1

Forestry policy that is Bougainville appropriate is developed through participatory methods.

Activities

Together with local staff:

- Assess progress made in previous forestry consultation and awareness programmes throughout Bougainville
- Continue consultation and awareness with stakeholders to solicit local community views and publicise the development of policy as required
- Develop forestry policy, plans and guidelines that are Bougainville specific
- Align policy with local, national and international plans, regulations or agreements as appropriate
- Liaise with the relevant Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Divisions over compliance issues of forestry policy

Indicators

- Consultation with local communities and stakeholders form a basis for the development of Bougainville forestry policy
- Policies and guidelines reflect local aspirations within wider national and international regulations and agreements
- The ABG supports the developed policy through compliance systems

Objective 2

Regional Office staff contribute to the development of forestry policy & guidelines and confidently advocate for their implementation.

Activities

- Assess the training needs of the Regional Office staff in relation to the development of forestry policy & guidelines
- Plan for the inclusion of staff in the process of policy & guideline development
- Develop and implement a training programme for staff to advocate developed policy & guidelines amongst stakeholders
- Provide coaching, mentoring and on the job training on an on going basis

Indicators

- Staff have been actively involved in the process of forestry policy & guideline development
- Staff demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to work with stakeholders in the implementation of developed policy & guidelines

3. REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The volunteer Forestry Advisor will report to the Regional Forestry Officer and through him to the National Forestry Service. Regular monitoring and evaluation of assignment progress is done in conjunction with the Forestry Office, the volunteer and the VSA Programme Officer.

4. SKILLS EXCHANGE/TRANSFER

The volunteer will work alongside the Regional Forestry Officer on a daily basis with skills being transferred while on-the-job. In-house training of District Forestry Officers and Field Assistants will also facilitate skills transfer.

5. PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

Professional

Essential

- A qualification in Forestry science
- Experience in the development of forestry plans
- Ability to develop forestry policy & guidelines
- Experience in participatory methods of consultation

Desirable

- Qualification or experience in forest management
- Agro forestry knowledge and skills
- Small scale saw mill operation knowledge and skills
- Experience working in the forestry sector within Melanesia

Personal

- Excellent communication, organisational and problem solving skills
- A willingness to learn the lingua franca 'Tok Pisin'

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and preferably have lived in New Zealand for at least two years.

Partner Organisation

The volunteer's partner organisation will be National Forest Service (Bougainville Regional Office).

Length of Assignment

This assignment is for two years.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of our contract, the volunteer will be required to take part in a pre-departure course run by VSA in Wellington. Dates are indicated in the document titled *Instructions on Applying for a VSA Assignment* (downloadable from our website).

Final Appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances, partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the VSA Briefing course.

Family Status

Families with accompanying dependant children will not be considered for this assignment.

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 advisor.

Volunteer Package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

- **Reimbursements and Grants**

1. The volunteer will receive an initial establishment grant of NZ\$1000.
2. A Location Grant of NZ\$2,800 is payable after 6, 12, & 18 months of service to enable the volunteer to take leave well away from the assignment location.
3. A resettlement grant of \$250 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on the completion of the assignment.
4. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of PGK1030.

- **Accommodation**

VSA will provide basic furnished accommodation.

- **Airfares and baggage allowance**

The volunteer will be provided with airfares at the beginning and end of the assignment, plus a baggage allowance.

- **Insurance**

VSA will provide insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and medical and additional expenses.

Attachments

Appendix 1. BACKGROUND TO THE ASSIGNMENT

Appendix 2. LIVING AND WORKING SITUATION

Appendix 3. VSA IN BOUGAINVILLE

Appendix 4. SECURITY

Appendix 1. BACKGROUND TO THE ASSIGNMENT

Issues in Bougainville Society

Separated geographically and culturally from mainland Papua New Guinea, Bougainville and Buka Island and other smaller atoll islands form the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB). The devastating civil conflict in Bougainville between 1989 and 1999 led directly or indirectly to the deaths of up to 15,000 people. During this time half the population was displaced, families were separated and communities divided. Schools and training institutions closed, and hospitals and other government services halted. Many people had no access to basic services.

Since the cease fire in 1999, Bougainville society has changed rapidly and both state and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are finding it difficult to keep pace with the evolving political, social and economic situation and meet the needs of marginalised people and communities.

At the same time that organisations are trying to respond to these complex social problems, they are also trying to develop their own operational capacity. Many educated and experienced Bougainvilleans have left the island and most young people were not formally educated during the crisis. As a result, there are serious human resource shortfalls in both government and NGOs.

The Regional Forestry Office

The Bougainville Regional Forestry Office was re-established in 2000, following the crisis. The main activities since re-establishment have been the reactivating of cocoa and copra plantations and involvement in a cocoa and coconut dryer project; milling of the trees that had grown in plantations during the crisis; supervising nurseries; forestry awareness meetings (in 104 locations); supervising small scale saw mills (there are 150 active saw mills) and training of mill operators (minimising waste, timber pricing, mill maintenance) and the development of small scale plantations of teak, vitex etc.

The Regional Forestry Office is an established entity under both the Autonomous Bougainville Government (Economic Services) and under National Forestry Service (PNG) from where it receives funding.

Bougainville currently follows the PNG National forestry policy and guidelines, where forestry is on a much larger scale. Direction for the future lies in the development of home-grown Bougainville policy, plans and guidelines that reflect the small scale nature of operations that exist here. The Regional Forestry Officer is confident in the implementation of plans but as policy and guideline development is new, seeks the assistance of a volunteer in these areas.

The Bougainville Forestry Plan (2003-2006) outlines its goals and objectives as follows:

The fourth goal of the Constitution is the cornerstone of the National Forestry Policy, the Forestry Act 1991 (as amended) and the National Forest Development guidelines (NFDG).

The fourth goal calls for the wise use of the country's natural resources and environment with a firm view to conserving these most delicate resources for the "collective" benefit of generations of 'today' and 'tomorrow'.

This national goal is further translated into Bougainville forestry development goals in pursuit of wise use and conservation of forest resources in meeting its development objectives

The theme of forestry sector should be to ensure;

- Future industrial forest resource development is monitored through strict control to ensure a sustainable environmentally sound industry, making maximum use of available resources by processing to add value and spread benefits and community based forestry and agricultural activities.

In line with this development philosophy the Bougainville Autonomous Government will set the following Forestry Development goals.

- Economic and social support for the indigenous population's living standards on a sustainable basis
- Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity
- Protection of soil and water quality with a view to [by] minimising deleterious effects of forest removal created while clearing for other land uses
- Creation and maintenance of sound employment opportunities through sustainable development
- Perpetuation of forest raw material base for local industries through natural regeneration and plantation establishment techniques
- Encouragement of multiple use forestry through eco-tourism and eco-forestry development programs with a view to perpetuating forest growth
- Greater participatory role for landowners in deciding the best economic use of their forests.

Priority Areas for Development

1. Economic and social support for local community living standards on a sustainable basis by promoting well managed small scale industry utilising forest products.
2. Perpetuation of forest raw material base for local industries through proper management of natural forests, natural regeneration and plantation establishment techniques.
3. Encourage processing raw product to add value, create job opportunities, establishment of appropriate cottage industries and provide incentives for education and training in all aspects of forestry.
4. Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity.

Appendix 2. LIVING AND WORKING SITUATION

Working

The Regional Forestry Office is at the western most end of Buka town and shares a building with Bougainville Community Finance, an education office, a stationers shop and the landlord's private residence. The office is visited by a wide variety of people including resource owners, saw mill operators, NGO's, government officers, donor agencies, complainants, and overseas agents. The office is within walking distance of all town facilities.

The forestry office has two rooms – the Regional Forestry Officer's office and a reception and small meeting room that has tables, chairs, a desk top computer and notice-board. The rooms are air conditioned. Shared toilet facilities are available within the building. The Regional Office has seven staff, two based in the Buka office, with the remainder being District Officers and Field Assistants who spend portions of time at the Buka office.

The volunteer will be provided with a desk and chair, a desk top computer and access to telephone and internet when available. If the volunteer prefers to use a laptop they will be required to bring their own.

Living

Bougainville is a tropical island, often rainy and humid with temperatures between 25-30 degrees year round.

Buka is the administrative centre of Bougainville and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government is located there. Buka also has Bougainville's only bank, post office, domestic airport, general hospital and university centre. Buka is separated from the mainland by the Buka passage. Fibreglass open boats (banana boats) continuously run back and forth across the channel transporting people and goods each weekday and run occasionally in the weekends. The main road in Buka is tar sealed and suitable for bicycling.

The airport in Buka has regular scheduled flights to other destinations in Papua New Guinea (PNG). There are three flights weekly between Buka and Port Moresby via Air Niugini. A ship also services Buka-Rabaul-Lae that travels overnight to these destinations. Public motor vehicles (PMV's) travel the road on a daily basis between Buka and Arawa. These are usually 10-seater or open backed Landcruisers although there are some larger trucks also used for transporting people and goods. Roads are unsealed except in Buka township and there are several wet river crossings on the road between Buka and Arawa.

There is limited western social life on the island with the main activities being swimming and snorkelling, fishing and tennis (Buka only). There are potentially excellent tramping tracks, though there can be land access issues unless accompanied by local people. There are no western hotels, but several basic guesthouses and restaurants have been established over the last several years. Kuri Lodge, on the Buka passage provides a popular evening gathering place for Buka residents and visitors.

Buka has an excellent weekday market with a good variety of fresh produce. Fresh fish is less available, although a fish market is currently being developed. Trade stores offer a variety of basic imported food and goods. Some frozen goods are available. A local bakery produces bread (white only) and other simple baked goods. Fresh dairy products are limited and only occasionally available.

There are no internet cafés or public internet connections available in Buka, though public phone and fax are available. A mobile phone network has recently been established.

VSA will provide basic 2-3 bedroom furnished accommodation in Ieta Village, a 20 minute walk from Buka town. The house has a gas oven for cooking, tanked rainwater supply, hot shower and flush toilet. The house is on mains power supply and operates on an 'easy-pay' (meter) system. Buka does experience some power problems with the mains generator and occasionally may operate on a load share system, although usually there is 24 hour power. It is possible to have a phone connection put on at the house (at the volunteer's expense). Two other VSA houses are also located within the village. A regular public motor vehicle (PMV) service runs between the village and Buka township, at a cost of 80 toea (about 45 cents) per one way trip.

Malaria is endemic on Bougainville and the use of prophylaxis is required.

Appendix 3: VSA IN BOUGAINVILLE

Volunteer Service Abroad's Bougainville Volunteer Programme was established in May 1998 following a decade of civil conflict. Since January 1999 more than sixty volunteers have worked on assignments in Bougainville with placements including health, construction, education, small business and planning in both government and non-government sectors. Most volunteers have been located in one of the two main centres, Buka and Arawa, while others have been assigned to more isolated locations.

VSA's Bougainville Programme has contributed to the people of Bougainville achieving greater self-reliance and local people have developed a wide range of skills. Local organisations, in the government and non-government sectors, have strengthened their capacity. Environmental sustainability and gender equity have been enhanced, and local communities strengthened. The quality of life and the sustainable well-being of the people of Bougainville has improved since VSA's engagement started in May 1998. And, importantly, greater mutual understanding and warm relationships have developed between individual Bougainvilleans and New Zealanders.

Currently VSA has several volunteer placements on Bougainville which are supported by the VSA Programme Officer who is based in Arawa.

Appendix 4: SECURITY

VSA's Volunteer Programme in Bougainville addresses significant development needs following years of crisis. The physical, psychological, and cultural damage resulting from a decade of civil strife will take many years to heal. The peace process is still fragile and it will take time before people gain confidence and build trust within their communities and with outsiders.

Despite the somewhat negative image presented through the media, VSA and other volunteer agencies continue to run successful programmes in Papua New Guinea. In Bougainville where a cease-fire has been in place since 1998, the peace process is continuing to unfold and volunteers must be aware of, and accept the heightened risk and adopt behaviour that reflects due caution. This includes taking precautions such as not moving around after dark alone, keeping the house secure and items of value out of sight. Volunteers in Bougainville are not required to live in compounds or to have security guards to protect themselves or their property. All VSA volunteers to Bougainville must sign a set of security protocols that set out behaviour, designed to minimise risk.

VSA has confidence in the peace process and a commitment to the people of Bougainville. The Programme Officer is constantly monitoring the security situation.