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## Wildlife Ecotourism Advisor

General Information	
<b>Assignment Code:</b>	AV0317VU46P
<b>Position Title:</b>	Wildlife Ecotourism Advisor <b>(APPLICATIONS CLOSE 21st March 2017)</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	12 months
<b>Proposed Start Date:</b>	June 2017
<b>Assignment Location:</b>	Port Vila , Vanuatu
Assignment Summary	
<p>Take a walk on the wild side and help conserve Vanuatu's threatened species and ecosystems whilst improving the livelihoods of the local community!</p> <p>Vanuatu lies in the East Melanesian Islands hotspot for Biodiversity and has a high number of endemic species and iconic species such as dugongs and sea turtles. There are untapped opportunities to develop ecotourism products based on this natural wealth. However there is a fine balance between tourism helping threatened species and causing them or communities harm. Your expertise will shift the balance in favour of conservation whilst improving local livelihoods.</p> <p>VESS is a young organisation and our aim is to use science as a tool for conservation in Vanuatu and to encourage Ni-Vanuatu scientists. VESS is currently implementing the Dugong and Seagrass Conservation project, a global GEF-funded project involving eight developing countries. We are also working on a CEPF-funded project to increase awareness of threatened species in Vanuatu. Ecotourism potential involving these animals and plants will be explored under these projects and incorporated into workshops derived to communities.</p> <p>You will identify potential ecotourism products involving wildlife that could improve livelihoods of people. You will help develop guidelines and codes of conduct for tourism operators to improve the livelihoods of these animals and plants, and the people who share their habitats. You will also investigate opportunities for "voluntourism" as a sustainable mechanism for funding conservation programs to protect Vanuatu's threatened species.</p> <p>In your role you will help the VESS Ni-Vanuatu scientists, officers in the Department of Tourism and community members better understand the benefits and pitfalls of ecotourism involving wildlife.</p>	
Host Organisation (HO) Details	

<b>Name of HO:</b>	The Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS)
<b>Description of the HO:</b>	<p>The Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS) was established in 2014. The society's aims are to conserve threatened species and ecosystems in Vanuatu. Our approach is to work in collaboration with government, other NGOs and the public to increase the awareness of threatened species; to fill data gaps with scientific studies; and to ensure information is available to enable communities to protect and conserve their surrounding areas whilst promoting sustainable development. VESS currently has two projects for conserving Vanuatu's fauna and flora. VESS is the implementing partner for the Vanuatu activities for a global GEF-funded Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project. Australia is a supporting partner for this project and has pledge \$5 million in support of the project. The other is a CEPF-funded project to increase awareness of threatened species in Vanuatu.</p> <p>VESS has an office at Anchor House in Port Vila and employs 3 staff members. We also employ students on a casual basis to help implement the projects.</p>
<b>Australian Partner Organisation (APO)</b>	
<b>Name of APO:</b>	Ecotourism Australia
<i>Please note, the work plan below is indicative only and may change depending on the needs of the Host Organisation or other factors.</i>	
<b>Assignment Outcomes</b>	<b>Volunteer Activities/Deliverables</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist communities to develop sustainable tourism products based on Vanuatu's wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable wildlife activities that could become tourism products particularly including dugongs and turtles and threatened or endemic species</li> <li>Assist VESS to write best practice guidelines for tourism involving wildlife, building on from the minimum standards of the Department of Tourism</li> <li>Incorporate these guidelines developed by VESS into workshops on wildlife tourism products delivered to communities</li> <li>Ensure women take part in the workshops</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist communities who have registered their community conservation areas (CCAs) with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation create and market tourism products for their areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document tourism products in registered CCAs</li> <li>Identify potential new tourism products for CCAs</li> <li>Assist the communities to develop additional products ensuring the sustainability of the product and the wildlife and ecosystems involved</li> <li>Ensure communities understand the risks involved with these activities</li> <li>Strengthen the communities' marketing plans and identify new marketing avenues</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities for "voluntourism" to assist conservation efforts of threatened species such as dugongs and turtles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect information on any previous "voluntourism" products or initiatives in Vanuatu</li> <li>Collect information on any previous "voluntourism" products or initiatives in similar countries</li> <li>Write a report on the potential for "voluntourism" in Vanuatu involving threatened species and the whether it has the potential to fund conservation programs for these species, whilst liaising with the Department of Tourism</li> <li>Share reports and information with the Department of Tourism and other interested parties</li> </ul>

Qualifications and Experience	
<b>Essential Minimum Qualifications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor Degree in Ecology, Conservation Biology, Ecotourism or relevant field</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Minimum Experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three years of experience working in Ecology, Ecotourism or Wildlife Conservation</li> </ul>
<b>Desirables:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience working in Tourism and Marketing</li> <li>• Previous experience in projects to conserve threatened species involving ecotourism</li> <li>• Experience or knowledge of volunteer programs for conservation of threatened species involving tourists</li> </ul>
Description of Assignment Location	
<p>Port Vila is the capital and largest city of Vanuatu with a population of approximately 45 000. It is situated on the south coast of Efate Island in Shefa Province and serves as the tourism and commercial centre of Vanuatu. Port Vila is built around a bay; many areas stretch up the hillsides, offering a combination of stunning harbour views with a faded French atmosphere. Services include daily international flights, phone and internet coverage, quality restaurants and supermarkets and banking facilities. Buses in the form of mini vans, and walking, are the most common modes of transportation. Temperatures range from warm to hot throughout the year, with a wet season early in the year, at which time the city is prone to cyclones. Swimming, snorkelling, fishing, enjoying waterfalls and playing team sports are commonplace activities.</p> <p><b>Cultural Tips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national language is Bislama, but English and French are both widely spoken</li> <li>• Casual, modest, loose clothing is usually acceptable in the workplace and in public. Women may like to consider wearing an “island dress”. Neat, conservative clothing should be worn for formal occasions</li> <li>• Most Ni-Vanuatu is religious and attends church on a weekly basis. Meetings, workshops, and sports sessions commonly begin and end with a prayer</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Accommodation:</b> Assistance with the identification of suitable, secure and affordable accommodation will be provided by the In-Country Management Team and the host organisation.</p>	
Additional Information	
<p><b>Is this Assignment in a Remote Location?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

### Preparing Your Application

It is recommended that you have the following documentation prepared in order to be uploaded/entered into the online application system:

- An electronic version of your CV to copy into our online template

- Statement against selection criteria

- Q1. Individually address each assignment outcome and consider what they might involve. In relation to these outcomes, provide evidence of the skills and experience you would bring to the role and the host organisation. (max. 800 words)
- Q2. Why have you chosen to volunteer at this time within this role and location? (max. 300 words)
- Q3. Discuss the challenges that you would anticipate adjusting to living in this location and volunteering in this role. Outline the strategies you would use to overcome these. (max. 400 words)

- Scanned copy of your PR visa and Medicare card (if applicable)