

Project Officer - Language & Culture Vanuatu, V07VUG004

Assignment Summary
Assignment Title:
Project Officer - Language & Culture
Name of Host Organisation (HO):
Malakula Kaljorol Senta (MKS)
Assignment Location:
Lakatoro, Malakula Island, Vanuatu
Assignment Duration:
24 months
Proposed Start and Finish Dates:
September 2008 - September 2010

Host Organisation Details
Description of the Host Organisation:
<p>The Malakula Kaljorol Senta (Malakula Cultural Centre) MKS is the only provincial branch of the main Vanuatu Cultural Centre based in Port Vila.</p> <p>Situated at the Provincial Centre at Lakatoro, Central Malekula the centre is very important and plays a very important role in preventing and preserving the cultures of the people of Malekula. It was established in 1991 to be the doorway and also, preserve and promote the cultures of Malekula.</p> <p>The main objectives for the Malakula Cultural Centre (MKS) are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ upgrade the custom and cultures of Malekula for the attraction of visitors and interested custom role from Malekula ▪ advertise the section headings based on MCC attach with the Vanuatu National Museum. ▪ collect and preserve artifacts of historical, customary and cultural importance used and practiced on the island of Malakula ▪ provide temperature and humidity control for the audio visual equipment. <p>Tasks carried out by the Malakula Cultural Centre include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry out primary and secondary school visits ▪ Officer giving talks representing cultures in developing the Malampa REDI (5 years development plan).

- Give assistance to researchers and other people sent by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre to do work on Malekula.

To learn more visit the website at: <http://www.vanuatuculture.org/>

Assignment		
Assignment Focus		
Capacity building needs		
a)	Need of language documentation and orthography development in communities in Malakula where there are not yet agreed orthographies	
b)	Development of additional vernacular literacy materials and assistance in training teachers	
c)	Support the Malakula Kaljoral Senta in the development of work plans and long-term plans	
Assignment outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literacy manuals developed ▪ Establishment of vernacular literacy programs in Grade 1 in as many schools as possible in the Malampa province as per the Ministry of Education policy. ▪ MKS more organised and transparent in its activities ▪ MKS annual plans developed 		
Work plan for the VIDA Volunteer.		
Assignment Outcomes	Tasks required to achieve each outcome	Time for each task to be completed (weeks/months)
Familiarisation of relevant bodies	Meet staff at VKS, SIL, Ministry of Education and Vanuatu National Language Committee	1 week
A vernacular literacy manual developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs analysis and consultation with HO, NLC, SIL and Education dept. ▪ Literacy Training manual developed 	4 months 4 months
Grade 1 teachers familiar with vernacular literacy	Regional workshops conducted to introduce the vernacular program in Grade 1.	Ongoing
Primers using the National Language Committee-recommended primer format and any additional literacy materials developed	Consult with NLC and assist in developing primer in consultation with the Ministry of Education.	Ongoing
MKS more organised and transparent in its activities and has a annual plan	Examine and familiarise with existing human resource management systems. Develop an annual plan	Ongoing

Final report developed	Work with counterparts to collate and prepare final report, before making presentation of final report.	End of Assignment
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Qualifications and Experience
Essential Minimum Qualifications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal education or specific training: BA or preferably MA in linguistics or applied linguistics. ▪ Job knowledge or professional skills in orthography (spelling system) development; literacy materials development.
Essential Minimum Experience:
<p>Should have two years minimum experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specific relevant experience in orthography and literacy materials development. ▪ Experience with a multi-strategy critical literacy approach. ▪ Experience living in a cultural context other than ones own, as well as an isolated rural location
Desirables:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong interest in and appreciation of cultural diversity ▪ Understanding of issues related to colonisation and globalisation

Supervision and Support
Support strategies
MKS will act as the local host partner agency for a linguist volunteer placed jointly with the National Language Committee (NLC). The volunteer will work with local counterparts at the Malakula Cultural Centre and also out in the communities.
Support strategies for rural locations
<p>It will depend on where the volunteer lives. The curator and his family live on Uripev. In Lakatoro there will be other volunteers living close by.</p> <p>The VIDA Program can also provide additional support for volunteer assignments in remote locations depending on individual assignment circumstances.</p>

Additional Information
Description of the workplace
The cultural centre includes a basic office with a computer and small library. There is good mobile phone coverage.
Description of assignment location
Malekula is the second largest island in the archipelago with an area of more than 2000sq kms. It can be reached from Vila or Santo. The interior is lush and mountainous. Malekula is famous for its remarkable tribes, the Big Nambas and Small Nambas and the complex culture they retain.

Norsup is the main centre. About 5kms south of Norsup is Lakatoro, once the British district agency headquarters. It is a picturesque area which houses a number of government offices and is the centre of a large copra project being developed in the north of the island.

Malekula art and ritual objects are among the finest in Vanuatu, from distinctive local custom dances, sand drawings, tall head dresses of the dancers from South West Bay to the highly decorated clay heads and puppet figures which represent mythological beings.

Information on accommodation options

There is accommodation available on Uripev Island. This will be discussed between the volunteer, ICM and HO before arrival.

Information on any resources the Volunteer should bring with them

Any information that would assist in this assignment.