



SCHOOL AID MTÜ

Curriculum Vitae



Maribeth Buo de Montaigne

Co-Founder & Director — New Country Development & Community Relations

Opens new countries for School Aid — leading first-entry assessment, government and institutional liaison, partner vetting and host-community engagement across every programme, with three decades of operating experience spanning Southeast Asia, China and Australia — under the Board's conflict-of-interest protocol.

Known as “Bunny” · Filipina national, based in the Philippines · 30 years opening new markets and building community & government relations across Southeast Asia, China and Australia, and David de Montaigne's wife and business partner

School Aid role — Co-Founder & Director — New Country Development & Community Relations

- Lead School Aid's entry into new countries — first-contact assessment, government and institutional liaison, partner vetting and host-community engagement — across every programme, Morocco, the Philippines and Venezuela alike.
- Liaise with governments, local authorities and NGO partners; vet in-country partners.
- Apply the Country Cultural & Context Protocol in each country; operate under a declare-and-recuse conflict rule (see note).
- Board appointment in process — registration of the expanded Board with the Estonian Business Register pending.

Profile

Maribeth Buo de Montaigne (“Bunny”) is a Filipina community-development and government-relations leader — and David de Montaigne's wife and partner in building his Philippine ventures for close to three decades. Since joining the de Montaigne Group in 1995 she has led the community, government-relations and socio-economic pillar of the group's energy platform: co-founding and serving as President of Global Green Power, and now President & Director of Socio-Economic Development at Biomass Asia Inc. She has delivered host-community engagement and poverty-alleviation programmes with local government units, national government and NGOs, maintained direct working relationships with the Philippine Congress, Senate and Office of the President, and secured the community ‘social licence’ — including the 25-year, 3.5-million-tonne biomass supply framework — that underpins the ventures. She has worked across Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, China and Australia as well as throughout the Philippines, and is at her strongest at the opening of something — the first meetings, the first partners, the first agreements in a country where the organisation is not yet known. That is what she brings to School Aid: leading new-country development wherever the Board takes the charity next, and carrying community and government relations across the whole programme.

Professional experience

Period	Organisation	Role & contribution
Dec 2025–present	Biomass Asia Inc (Philippines)	President & Director of Socio-Economic Development. Leads community engagement, social licence, government relations and biomass supply-chain partnerships for the biochar and carbon-removal platform. (For-profit — see conflict note.)
2008–present	Global Green Power PLC Corporation	Co-founder & President, alongside David de Montaigne. Led the community, government-relations

Period	Organisation	Role & contribution
		and socio-economic build-out of the Philippine renewable-energy platform. Secured the full suite of government approvals for the power plant — sixteen separate permits and licences — leading the regulatory and consenting process end to end. Built the feedstock base directly with farming communities, irrigators' associations, rice mills and sugarcane consortiums, securing 25-year biomass supply contracts totalling 3.5 million tonnes. Authored the Code of Business Ethics and designed the Biomass Fair Pricing scheme and the SHARE community-benefit programme.
1995–2008	de Montaigne Group of Companies	Director of Development, and David de Montaigne's Philippine partner — business development, stakeholder management, government liaison and community programme design. Led host-community engagement across several Chinese provinces (working through interpreters) during the group's China biomass operations, while the family was based in Shanghai.
1989–1993	Facade (design & retail enterprise)	Owner-manager — design, manufacture and retail. Early entrepreneurial track record.

Education & qualifications

- BS Secretarial (Executive Secretary) — Makati Polytechnic Community College, 1984–1987.

Key expertise for School Aid

- End-to-end permitting and regulatory consenting for power projects (secured sixteen licences).
- Government, legislative and policy-reform campaigns — Philippine Congress, Senate and Office of the President.
- Community engagement and social-licence delivery for energy and infrastructure projects.
- Biomass supply-chain contracting with farmers, irrigators' associations, rice mills and sugarcane consortiums.
- ESG and community-benefit framework design (Code of Business Ethics; Biomass Fair Pricing; SHARE).
- Multi-country operating experience — the Philippines (Luzon, Visayas/Panay, Mindanao), Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, China and Australia.

Government relations & policy leadership

- Led the regulatory campaign that secured all sixteen government permits and licences for the power plant — the full consenting process, end to end.
- Lead government liaison for Global Green Power's development — across the Department of Energy, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).
- Led a national policy programme with the Philippine Senate and Congress to reclassify biomass as a freely-traded commodity — on the same footing as solar, wind and water — rather than a government-controlled resource, reflecting that feedstock is contracted directly from farmers. The misclassification persists to this day and remains, in the company's view, a central obstacle to Philippine biomass.
- Primary liaison to the Philippine Congress, Senate and Office of the President for the renewable-energy awareness campaign.

Community development & frameworks authored

- Built the feedstock and community base directly with farming communities, irrigators' associations, rice mills and sugarcane consortiums across Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

- Authored the Code of Business Ethics (COBE) — the company's ethical code governing dealings with farmers, host communities, suppliers and government, and the backbone of its social licence.
- Designed the Biomass Fair Pricing scheme — a transparent, equitable pricing mechanism guaranteeing farmer-suppliers fair, predictable prices and a genuine share in the value chain.
- Created the SHARE (Share the Renewable Energy Advantage) community-benefit programme, returning tangible benefits to host communities.
- Led Green Power Panay socio-economic and poverty-alleviation programmes with host communities, LGUs, national government and NGOs.

Languages

English (fluent) · Tagalog (native) · Cebuano (native) · French (basic).

Conflict-of-interest note. Maribeth is the founder's wife and President of Biomass Asia Inc, a for-profit company connected to the founder — a relationship disclosed openly. As a School Aid board member she operates under the Board's conflict-of-interest protocol: she declares these interests and recuses from any decision touching Biomass Asia (including the firewalled Panay education arm), related-party transactions, or any matter where charitable and commercial interests could conflict. Such dealings are documented, arm's-length and disclosed.