



Project Location:
Mystery & Wala Islands, Champagne Bay, Vanuatu

Project Start Date:
1 January 2009

Funding Source:
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) – 49%
Carnival Australia – 51%

Total Grant Funds Approved:
A\$805,000

Updated December 2012

Carnival– Cruise Ship Based Tourism In Vanuatu

ABOUT CARNIVAL AUSTRALIA

Carnival Australia has been operating cruise ships to Pacific locations for over 75 years. Their ships call at several locations in Vanuatu – Mystery Island, Wala, Champagne Bay and the capital, Port Vila.

THE PROJECT AND HOW IT WORKED

Apart from Port Vila, the supporting infrastructure at the Vanuatu call sites was inadequate in terms of passenger safety and comfort. As Government funding was not available for the required improvements, Carnival Australia sought an ECF grant to share the costs of infrastructure and service upgrades to handle increased calls and to provide the maximum possible returns to local communities. These included.

- Increased and consistent incomes through the growing numbers of ship passengers visiting each site.
- Stimulate micro and small business activities by training community members in hospitality and financial management.
- Increased diversification of incomes sources for local communities e.g. organised tours and merchandise.

THE RESULTS

- All planned facility upgrades have been completed.
- Calls by Carnival Australia passenger ships to the three sites increased from 36 calls in 2009 to 77 planned calls in 2013.
- Locals have been trained in passenger handling and transit services.
- Carnival Australia has also provided training and development support for tours at each site enabling a further increase in incomes for local communities. As at end 2012 these tours had not, however, been implemented.
- Carnival Australia has changed its passenger charity donation program to focus on community projects at visited sites and will work with Save the Children to ensure effective implementation.

The benefits of this project include:

- Substantial increased local community incomes as a result of the increased number of ship calls – average passenger expenditure at each site is over \$A15,000 per call.
- The greatest proportion of beneficiaries is women who depend on the ship calls for their family support income.
- Increased and diversified incomes will be achieved with the introduction of tours.
- Skills enhancement for both men and women as a result of training and technical support from Carnival Australia and other organisations.
- Merchandise improvements and diversification is expected to increase sales of locally made products and this will have flow on benefits to other suppliers in Vanuatu.
- Royal Caribbean has commenced calls at Mystery Island and Champagne Bay and this will enhance the benefits for local communities.
- The lessons from the Carnival project will be useful for other cruise ship operations interested in the Pacific and equitable community outcomes.

HOW ECF FUNDS WERE USED

Carnival Australia funded the costs of environmental and social impact studies at each site, wharf upgrades, improved navigation aids, provision of a passenger boat at Mystery Island to transport passengers for tour excursions, other site improvements and various support activities to increase incomes for local communities.

ECF funds contributed to the construction of environmentally friendly toilet facilities at the three sites, hospitality training for local communities and establishment of tour routes and signage.