



Project location:
North Malaita, Solomon Islands

Project start date:
1 January 2010

Funding source:
AusAID 50%, Didao 50%

Total grant funds approved:
A\$680,000

Updated December 2012

Didao – Fish Processing And Export In Solomon Islands

ABOUT DIDAO

Didao, a locally owned company with interests in fishing and seafood, has set up a fishing project that is sustainable for the environment and the local community.

THE PROJECT AND HOW IT WORKED

With the assistance of an ECF grant, Didao is expected to establish a processed fish export operation, source offshore reef fish from local fisherman operating as a newly formed fishing cooperative in North Malaita, and supply cooperative members with technical support and equipment.

The project aims to:

- increase incomes, technical support and equipment support, for 200 fishermen and women
- improve access to other goods and services through improved shipping services generated by the project
- stimulate micro-enterprise activity in North Malaita, and this will more likely be market stalls by women
- create 20 new jobs in Honiara – five employees in the factory, five fish handlers and 10 crew for the shipping operation working shift rotations.

The project will support sustainable fishing practices for reef (pelagic) fish species from offshore waters of Lau Lagoon by artificial island people in the heavily populated island of Malaita.

THE RESULTS

- Significant delays in obtaining permits for the fish processing operation and visas for technicians to construct the plant, affected Didao's progress.
- To date, Didao has completed the fish processing facility in Honiara and obtained the carrier boat.
- The first fishing trip was completed close to the end of 2012 to trial the operations and initial sales of fish were provided to the local market in Honiara.
- Didao has amended the strategic plan from 2013 and rather than focus on exports, will initially sell artisanal fish in the domestic market for the first two years of the processing operations and will expand into export markets in Australia and other Pacific Island countries in the third year.
- The supply chain arrangements that Didao is developing with the communities in Lau Lagoon will be a useful model for other ventures in the Solomon Islands. The project will reduce the pressure on, and serious threat to, inshore marine resources.

HOW ECF FUNDS WERE USED

ECF funds have been used to fund the fish factory in Honiara, and transportation, via both a carrier boat and small fishing boats for local people in Lau Lagoon, Malaita. Didao has funded clearing and installation for the factory and village level fishing infrastructure, such as fishing equipment and training for suppliers.