

**Project location:**

Kwato Island and Mwatebu Bwasa village,  
Papua New Guinea

**Project start date:**

1 July 2009

**Funding source:**

AusAID 49%, Masurina 51%

**Total grant funds approved:**

A\$183,166

Updated December 2012

## Masurina – Resource Centres In Remote Papua New Guinea

### ABOUT MASURINA

Masurina is a local company having developed as a cooperative in Milne Bay province in Papua New Guinea to support agricultural development in the area.

### THE PROJECT AND HOW IT WORKED

Masurina sought A\$183,166 in ECF funding to develop multi-purpose resource centres at Kwato Island and Mwatebu Bwasa village in the Milne Bay province.

The resource centres are places that local communities can use for trade and other commercial activities such as sourcing, initial processing, and the sale and exporting of sustainably harvested timber from local landowners.

ECF funding was also provided to assist Masurina to move into boat building by using the existing skills of local workers and expand its accommodation facilities on Kwato Island. This is expected to bring about -

- New income sources for village communities and landowners through the sale of sustainably harvested timber
- Provide income and employment opportunities from expanding visitor accommodation at Kwato Island which will open the area up for tourists who may be interested in a range of activities offered at the new facility such as diving.
- Increase micro-business opportunities for up to 100 women who can use the secure and supportive centres.
- Re-establish timber boat building as a source of employment and increase boats for coastal services to offer both coastal services.
- Improved community access to communications, information and medical services at the resource centres

### THE RESULTS

- Both resource centres in Kwato Island and Mwatebu have been established and are currently operating.
- Improved access to sawn timber will benefit local businesses and households.
- Masurina have eight full time staff working with the resource centre.
- Milling of flitches has commenced with villages earning K60-240 (A\$27-108) as project staff travel to areas to cut flitches from logs rather than using the resource centres as a base.
- Using the timber from the resource centres, Masurina has rehabilitated a boat for use by community members for children to attend school across the river and for other community members to travel to hospitals or town to trade.
- Masurina launched a copra purchasing venture through the resource centres, which complements ongoing timber sales.
- After the success of boat building activities, Masurina has started to introduce sail making to its production capacities. It has distributed a number of sewing machines (donated by people in England) and purchased equipment to begin sail making. Masurina, will provide training to men and women in sail making and by doing so they are 'breaking the mould in enabling women to embrace new activities'.
- Results are slower than expected as timber cutting and other activities were put on hold at both sites during 2012 while land owners conducted negotiations in the two areas. The disputes stem from commencement of mining activities through New Guinea Gold (Normanby Mining).

### HOW ECF FUNDS WERE USED

ECF shared the project costs with Masurina. ECF funds provided 50% of the costs of the resource centres' equipment. Masurina have funded fund establishment and operating costs.