

**Project location:**

Kwato Island and Mwatebu Bwasa village, Papua New Guinea

Project start date:

1 July 2009

Project end date:

30 June 2012

Funding source:

AusAID 49%, Masurina 51%

Total grant funds approved:

A\$183,166

Updated: May 2011

Masurina – Resource Centres in Remote Papua New Guinea

SUMMARY

Masurina, a wholly local Milne Bay company, is developing multi-purpose resource centres at Kwato Island and Mwatebu Bwasa village in the Milne Bay province, with the help of ECF grant funding.

The resource centres will be places that local communities can use for trade and other commercial activities. In the early stages this will include sourcing, initial processing, and sale and exporting of sustainably harvested timber from local landowners.

ECF funding will also assist Masurina to move into boat building by using the existing skills of local workers and expand its accommodation facilities on Kwato Island.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

- New income source for village communities and landowners through the sale of sustainably harvested timber
- Expanded visitor accommodation at Kwato Island will open the area up for tourists (especially diving) and provide income and employment opportunities
- Increased micro-business opportunities for up to 100 women using the secure and supportive centres for their activities
- Potential re-establishment of timber boat building for both employment and sail boats for coastal services
- Improved community access to communications, information and medical services at the resource centres

PROGRESS

- Both resource centres in Kwato Island and Mwatebu are established and operating. Heavy rainfall in the low-land area at Mwatebu has hampered progress and roads need some repair.
- Masurina is training personnel on sustainable forestry practices using the new project equipment.

BENEFITS

- Surveys taken during the field visit by the ECF team indicate that suppliers are keen to make money from selling timber.
- The community centres are expected to provide a secure and supportive environment for women to undertake micro-enterprise and social activities.
- The planned timber boat construction will provide employment and training opportunities for local men.
- Improved access to sawn timber will benefit local businesses and households.
- The use of resource centres in regional areas is being trialed through this project.
- The project will be a useful case study for the viability and impact of resource centres in more remote, disadvantaged areas.

HOW ECF FUNDS ARE BEING USED

ECF shares the project costs with Masurina. ECF funds have been used mainly for 50% of the costs of the resource centres' equipment. Masurina



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