

**Funding Source:**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) – 47%,  
Marine Consultancy Services - 53%

**Program:**

Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

**Project name:**

Expansion of Vanuatu Domestic Shipping

**Project Location:**

Santo, Vanuatu

**Project Start Date:**

1 January 2009

**Project End Date:**

31 December 2011

**Total Grant Funds Approved:**

A\$750,000

# Marine Consultancy Services

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Marine Consultancy Services is based in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, has 42 employees and has been operating a shipping/passenger service for seven years. Marine Consultancy Services provides scheduled services between Santo and the capital Port Vila and underserved islands north of Santo, carrying general merchandise, agricultural products and passengers.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The ECF grant will enable Marine Consultancy Services to purchase a second vessel which will be used to provide transport of goods and passengers between Santo and Port Vila, and a separate schedule servicing 24 locations on the remote and under serviced islands of Epi, Ambrym, Malekula, Pentecost, Maewo, Gaua, Banks, Torres and Ambae. The project will also involve the establishment of supporting infrastructure such as wharves, storage and maintenance facilities in the remote areas serviced by the new vessel.

## PRO-POOR BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The new reliable transport service will have extensive economic and social benefits for communities in the remote areas. There are an estimated 9,000 plus beneficiaries in the remote Torba province and nearby islands who will have enhanced livelihood opportunities and improved access to vital goods and services.

The regular shipping service to the remote areas will enable: over 1500 farmers and other traders greater access to markets and increase export opportunities; business and income opportunities through the development of tourism in the outer islands; improved supply of crucial goods and services, such as medical supplies and educational materials; and direct employment for 20 staff aboard the new vessel

Poor inter-island shipping services have hindered overall economic growth in many areas of Vanuatu and this new service will both have broad economic flow on benefits and provide a good demonstration of the commercial viability of efficiently operated shipping services in Vanuatu.

A reliable and efficient shipping service will allow farmers improved access to markets for their traditional crops (copra, cocoa etc) and open opportunities for commercial plantations geared to export markets.

A reliable and safe passenger service will also allow people in these remote areas to travel to other areas for personal, health and business purposes and will also encourage businesses to service these markets. The passenger service will also cater for the growing backpacker/adventure tourist market in Vanuatu and provide additional opportunities for small scale tourism businesses in these regions.

## THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

Obtaining a commercial loan is difficult in Vanuatu for this type of project, but with the support of ECF Marine Consultancy Service will be able to purchase a 40m x 10x vessel equipped with refrigerated containers and a storage capacity of 200 tonnes.

The grant will also be used to improve the related infrastructure in the locations. Because of the either infrequent or non-existent shipping services to these areas, the required supporting facilities are either in poor condition or absent and Marine Consultancy Services required ECF assistance to rectify this situation for both the public good and to ensure their services could operate efficiently.

For more information please visit our website [www.enterprisechallengefund.org](http://www.enterprisechallengefund.org)



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