

**Funding Source:**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) - 50%  
Didao-50%

**Program:**

Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

**Project Name:**

Didao Fish Processing and Export

**Project Location:**

Solomon Islands

**Project Start Date:**

1 January 2010

**Project End Date:**

31 December 2012

**Total Grant Funds Approved:**

A\$680,000

## Didao

### ABOUT THE COMPANY

Didao is a locally owned diversified company that has been involved with fishing and seafood related activities for over 20 years. In 2004 the company successfully exported whole reef fish to Australia but this business ceased following the social turmoil in the Solomon Islands.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

With the assistance of an ECF grant of \$680,000 Didao will establish a processed fish export operation. Offshore reef fish will be sourced through a newly formed fishing cooperative in North Malaita and cooperative members will be supplied with technical support and equipment by Didao. A new high speed carrier boat will collect fish for transport to a new processing operation in the capital, Honiara. Fish samples will be tested to international standards in a nearby Australian Government funded laboratory, prior to export to Australian buyers.

### BENEFITS TO THE POOR

The main beneficiaries will be the 1,200 people living on the artificial islands of Lau Lagoon in North Malaita who have limited reliable livelihood opportunities.

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Increased incomes (A\$24,000 per month) for 200 fishermen and women

- Increased access to livelihood opportunities to support the poor including boat and fishing gear loans and technical/management support to poor families
- Improved access to other goods and services as a result of the regular transport services provided by the carrier boat.
- Anticipated micro-enterprise activity in North Malaita particularly from women
- Creation of 20 new jobs in Honiara.

Sustainable offshore fishing will replace the environmentally destructive over fishing of inshore species. The project is expected to be a valuable and environmentally beneficial model for the seafood sector in the Solomon Islands. The effective supply chain management and in-country processing prior to export, will provide valuable lessons for similar projects in the Pacific.

### THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

Without ECF support the project would not have proceeded. Didao was not in a position to fund all of the project costs and was unable to secure commercial funding due to the perceived high risk of a seafood project in the Solomon Islands environment.

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



**Australian Government**  
**AusAID**

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AUSAID INITIATIVE

