

**Funding Source:**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) - 47%  
The Wilderness Lodge -53%

**Program:**

Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

**Project Name:**

The Wilderness Lodge

**Project Location:**

Peava Village, Gatokae Island, Marovo, Western Province, Solomon Islands

**Project Start Date:**

1 October 2009

**Project End Date:**

30 September 2012

**Total Grant Funds Approved:**

A\$110,000

# The Wilderness Lodge

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Wilderness Lodge is a 100 per cent locally owned ecolodge situated on a coral lagoon at the south-eastern tip of Western Province in the Solomon Islands. Wilderness Lodge is located next to some of the world's richest and most intact coral reefs and tropical rainforest habitats. The business has been operating since 2002 and has experienced strong demand from eco-tourists but did not have the resources to undertake the required expansion.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The ECF grant will enable Wilderness Lodge to double guest accommodation and expand site infrastructure. The project will also incorporate expansion and strengthening of the human resources of the business, including hospitality training of staff in conjunction with other ecotourism operations.

## BENEFITS TO THE POOR

The project is expected to provide increased incomes for four villages where government services and other livelihood opportunities are minimal.

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Improved and diversified livelihood opportunities for local communities in the form of wages, contracts, tour fees, sales of food and vegetable

products, carvings and craft and income from sea based activities. Island access fees paid directly to communities are likely to nearly double in value by 2012

- Hospitality and nature guide training of staff and communities in partnership with other eco-resorts and non-government organisations
- Improved access to telecommunications and transport services as the business expands.

A likely business linkage benefit of the project will be of a local operation of Solomon Dive Adventures, as a direct result of the Lodge's expanded and improved facilities, which will attract higher spending clients.

The project's close linkages with communities, the training of local people to undertake key roles in the business and its comprehensive environment protection strategy represent a model that can be replicated in other locations in the Solomon Islands and elsewhere.

## THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

Without ECF support, Wilderness Lodge was not in a position to fully fund its expansion plans. Commercial finance was not available for a lodge in this remote area of the Solomon Islands and the ECF grant was therefore crucial to the project's implementation.

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



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