

**Funding Source:**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) - 37%
Pelena - 63%

Program:

Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific and South East Asia

Project Name:

Kokonut Powa Blong Vilez
(Village coconut power)

Project Location:

Kolombangara Island, Western Province, Solomon Islands

Project Start Date:

1 January 2010

Project End Date:

31 December 2012

Total Grant Funds Approved:

A\$198,898

Pelena

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Pelena Energy is an Australian engineering company based at Dorrigo, in northern NSW, Australia. Specialising in remote energy systems, Pelena has been installing mini hydro systems in rural areas in the Solomon Islands since 1998. Currently there are five hydro systems in the Solomons utilising Pelena turbines and equipment, all of which are in remote locations and service villages of up to 1000 people. The company is now developing bio-fuels from fresh coconuts.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

With the support of ECF funding, Pelena will establish a biofuel production facility on Kolombangara Island in the Western Province. An oil extraction facility will be established to produce around 80,000 litres of bio-fuel each year. The project will provide a source of income for up to 160 local landowners by sourcing coconuts through them. Fuel will be sold to local businesses and institutions, with the latter being provided with a service/maintenance package.

BENEFITS TO THE POOR

Over 160 customary landowners will directly benefit from the project through the sale of coconuts from their plantations.

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Customary landowners will have a larger and more reliable market for their unused coconuts (current market for copra is small and erratic)
- Employment and training for 10 new full/part time positions through the project
- Reduced fuel costs for local boat services are expected to result in an additional monthly service that will provide improved access to vital goods and services for over 1000 men and women
- Increase in road transport services to areas supplying coconuts will provide remote communities with access to goods and markets

THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

Pelena could not afford to implement this project on their own. In addition, it was unable to secure commercial finance for the project because of its relatively remote location and the associated absence of acceptable real estate collateral. Without ECF support, this project would not have been implemented within the foreseeable future. In addition, Pelena could not undertake the project from their own financial resources.

For more information please visit our website www.enterprisechallengefund.org



Australian Government
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