

Sustainable community based sandfish aquaculture in West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea.

Attainable Sustainable Aquaculture (“ASA”) is a New Zealand based company developing sustainable aquaculture models in the Pacific.

In Papua New Guinea, ASA is currently developing a hatchery to produce juvenile sandfish for communities to sustainably farm in ocean based pens. By providing juveniles to communities, farmers can partake in a low-cost, low expertise livelihood that acts as an alternative for these communities who currently fish sandfish and other sea cucumber species at unsustainable levels. As a climate resistant livelihood, this helps reintroduce overfished sea cucumbers to their natural environment and capacity and allows the financial freedom of coastal communities to partake in further marine resource management. Once their sandfish are at a marketable size, ASA purchase these adults back off the farmers at competitive prices and process into ‘beche-de-mer’ to be sold on the international markets. This regular income provides local economic empowerment and sustainable development for the communities and contributes to gender mainstreaming as women tend to make up the majority of farmers.



ASA’s projects contribute to a variety of Sustainable Development Goals for New Zealand’s First Voluntary National Review, including gender equality (5), decent work and economic growth (8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (9), reduced inequalities (10), sustainable cities and communities (11), climate action (13), life below water (14) and partnerships for goals (15). It is ASA’s intention to continue providing a sustainable livelihood for communities in accordance with it’s triple bottom line of sustainability values.

ASA is a private company who relies on economic incentive from exporting ‘beche-de-mer’ to finance it’s hatchery and operations and support the farming communities. ASA partners with a local marine conservation NGO, Mahonia Na Dari who oversees community operations and ensures that communities are benefitting and sustainably farming to their full potential. The Papua New Guinean National Fisheries Authority (NFA) also provides governmental support to the project where needed.

The outcome expected by ASA is to be able to fully develop a truly sustainable aquaculture program in Kimbe, WNBP, PNG, that is able to be financially self-sufficient and provides social development, environmental benefits and economic empowerment to coastal communities who are currently reliant on fisheries that are unsustainable and lack support and development. ASA is still in the early stages of development in Kimbe, but it is expected to have a working hatchery built by the end of 2019 and communities engaged in farming by the end of 2020.

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