

SUMBA ICONIC ISLAND PROJECT



The Indonesian government is taking notice of the Sumba Iconic Island project. They are looking into implementing the model on other remote islands.

THE MODEL

Hivos started the Sumba Iconic Island programme in 2010. Operating in one of Indonesia's poorest regions, the project began as a multistakeholder initiative to achieve 100 percent reliance on renewable energy on one remote, economically poor island.

On the island of Sumba, most of the 650,000 inhabitants have no access to electricity. Some 70 percent of the population uses polluting and expensive kerosene for lighting and firewood for cooking, each of which can detrimentally impact health. In 2010, research showed that Sumba was rich in unexploited potential for renewable energy from solar, wind, hydro, biogas, and biomass sources. Hivos and their partners wanted to take advantage of this natural abundance.

THE STORY

Sulis Setiawati Seda is a community facilitator from Yayasan Social Donders, a local civil society organisation in East Sumba. She works with communities in remote areas, helping them find access to energy.

After learning about biogas, Sulis began to get involved in Sumba Iconic Island task force groups. She started contributing to meetings, voicing what she found in the field. The task force gave her direct access to policymakers in Sumba and beyond.

Sulis is also heavily involved in a solar irrigation project with Hivos. She organised for farmers to help construct solar pumps and also help build their own bamboo irrigation channels. As a result, farmers now grow fresh vegetables instead of surviving on a corn-based diet. They can harvest during the long dry season, which sometimes stretches eight months at a time. Not only does this provide food security, but also income. It is in this context that Sulis is helping to empower communities across the island, moving towards a 100 percent renewable energy future.

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The project employs many different kinds of clean energy technology including solar electrification, micro-hydro, solar irrigation systems, and biogas.

THE IMPACT

The project puts many technologies to use, including solar irrigation, household biogas, micro-hydro, energy kiosks, solar charging stations, home solar products, school electrification, and more. So far, nearly 7,000 people from 1,472 households across 29 villages have been impacted.

With improved access to light, it is easier for students to study at night. Households can gain income by participating in income generating activities during the evening hours. Additionally, women are able to save money by choosing biogas

over kerosene, and farmers can increase their earnings by expanding farming activities into the eight month dry season.

Over three years, the Sumba electrification ratio has nearly doubled from 24 to 40 percent, with renewable energy contributing 15 percent of that change. This has impacted 10,000 direct users of renewable energy. Additionally, 40 renewable energy entrepreneurs are working with Hivos to deliver services to users and consumers. The entrepreneurs are helping to bring these new money saving, sustainable technologies to more people across the island.

REPLICABLE MODELS

This programme aims to mobilise a range of stakeholders, from the government, the private sector, and local CSOs to multilateral and international donors, all of whom are interested in achieving a fundamental transformation of the energy supply on the island of Sumba. The task force has implemented a plan of action and roadmap to work toward the goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2025. The government of Indonesia passed a decree stating that the Ministry of Energy takes responsibility for the achievement of the project objectives, and Hivos is serving as official secretariat and independent advocate. This multistakeholder joint cooperation is removing barriers in the areas of policy, implementation, and funding. The Indonesian government is inspired by this project and intends to replicate the transformative model on other remote islands within the country as a way of increasing energy access.