



Project Description

Project: Haapai Outer Islands Electrification Project

Location: Tonga

Client: The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

Total Project Value: US\$3,300,000

Start Date: January 2002

End Date: January 2002

Lead Company: AC Consulting Group

Associated Consultants: None

Key Features:

- Institutional strengthening and engineering solutions
- Technical, management and financial training
- Community education on safe use of electricity

The Project introduced electrical power, for the first time, to four of the main islands in the Haï½apai Group; ĩ½Uiha, Haï½ano, Haï½afeva and Nomuka. AC Consulting was involved in both the institutional and engineering aspects of the project. The project involved setting up the structure to own, manage, maintain and operate the electricity network, managed by the community through Electricity Co-operatives. This entailed setting up the management structure; providing codes and bylaws; organising the elections of the management committee; providing technical, financial and management training; and educating the community on safe use of electricity and how to budget for its use.

The project also included design taking into account the risk of cyclones and storm surge; procurement of materials; construction of a powerhouse; electrical reticulation, which included laying underground cabling, supply and installation of diesel generators and fuel handling facilities; wiring of houses, shops and schools on each of the four islands.