CO-CREATING ENERGY ECOSYSTEMS

The challenge to provide sustainable energy for all has triggered multiple parties to develop various renewable energy solutions. However, studies show that results are too isolated. Most projects focus on one technical solution and are financed through one funding channel, and do not cover the full range of energy needs of households, businesses and the public sector. Inherently, results of these projects are not always lasting.

AREA-BASED SOLUTION
On the Indonesian island of Sumba, Hivos has developed a new approach to overcome these weaknesses: an area-based, multi-stakeholder initiative that integrates all financial and technical solutions into one energy ecosystem. The approach involves and connects all parties, solving problems such as lack of ownership and hampered cooperation between energy actors.

ICONIC ISLAND SUMBA
With ‘Iconic Island Sumba’ Hivos has set the benchmark: 100% renewable energy to empower people, spur economic development and support public services. At the start of the initiative three years ago, only 25% of the 700,000 inhabitants had access to electricity; now 44% of the island’s inhabitants enjoy energy generated by solar panels, windmills and micro-hydro installations. The approach not only benefits consumers, but producers as well: over 50 farming families saw their income increase because of a new solar application for irrigation, and another 150 now use their own biogas and fertile bioslurry. These results show the potential of economic development thanks to renewable energy.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH
On Sumba Hivos has shown that a multi-stakeholder approach can improve and green the whole energy system. We successfully invited private sector players, the Indonesian government and civil society actors to participate. One of the biggest infrastructure companies in Indonesia is preparing its investments in wind power. The Indonesian Ministry of Energy has taken responsibility for the realisation of the objectives, and the initiative is financially supported by the Asian Development Bank and the Dutch and Norwegian governments.

CROSSING BORDERS
Open-minded co-creation and cooperation between all stakeholders has turned out to be key to the successes on Sumba. Hivos laid the foundations and facilitated the process by investing in research, feasibility studies, pilots and sharing this with all stakeholders. This made it possible for all to join in and to take responsibility. We firmly believe that this multi-stakeholder model can be replicated to other locations inside and outside Asia. ‘Iconic Island Sumba’ shows governments and multilateral institutions the way forward in renewable energy solutions – perhaps better than any advocacy campaign could do.

LEVERAGING BUDGET
Hivos is researching new areas for this approach in Nicaragua, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru and India. We welcome all interested parties that want to join us in realising more ‘Sumbas’. The budget for expanding this successful programme is only a fraction of the implementation costs: an investment of € 250,000 p.a. to deliver the Sumba programme leveraged several millions through investments by the private sector, governments and international donors.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS
Besides a full range of stakeholders, Hivos partners are technical energy consultants such as KEMA, Entec and Fact Foundation, development experts from organisations like SNV and Winrock and research institutions like IIED.