

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP
Country	Fiji
Organisation	BirdLife International
Project Ref. No.	162/11/022
Report date	1 October 2002

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The revised schedule agreed with Darwin was:

September 15A - Press release – A press release was put out with the British High Commission in April, and followed by a presentation and features on Fijian TV, radio and newspapers. Another press release will be prepared once the project has established its in-country partnerships.

September 17A - All regional experts and institutions invited to contribute to project – Good progress was made during Aug/Sep but could not be completed until UK staff were in the region in October

September 17B - Regional networks enhanced – Good progress was made during Aug/Sep but could not be completed until UK staff were in the region in October

September 8 - UK project staff to region for training and research – To accommodate the start date of the National Project Coordinator (who had to give adequate notice to his previous employer), the first visit from UK staff member was on 3 October.

In summary, outputs were one month late to enable synchronisation with the start date of the National Project Coordinator (but were then completed effectively in October). The project is extremely happy to have recruited a National Project Coordinator of great existing skills and potential.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments, that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

The project agreed a late start date with Darwin as project staff and Fijian partner organisations were unable to commit themselves before August 2002. The salaries of two local positions (National Project Coordinator and Project Researcher) were carried forward in the revised agreement from the 2002/3 financial year into 2005/6. With the project underway, and another small delay for the National Project Coordinator to start, it is clear that the following budget-lines should also be carried forward:

Guy Dutson, Project Leader – take 4 months (April-July incl.) from 2002/3 and transfer to 2005/6

Dr Dick Watling (USP) – take 4 months (April-July incl.) from 2002/3 and transfer to 2005/6

Prof Bill Aalbersberg (USP) - take 6 months (April-Sep incl.) from 2002/3 and transfer to 2005/6. We

would be very appreciative if Darwin could make these changes. We have tried to minimise carry-over into the fourth financial year, but it proved inevitable given the constraints to starting the project on time.

The only subsequent problem was the difficulty of recruiting a suitable National Project Coordinator. The project was lucky, but had to start activities in Fiji one month late.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

At this early stage, we have encountered no problems.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk