Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13/010
Project Title	Darwin Living Reefs
Country(ies)	Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Kiribati
UK Organisation	Just World Partners
Collaborator(s)	Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, FSPKiribati, FSPVanuatu, Tuvalu Association of Non-government Organisations
Report date	1 April 2004 – 30 September 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	<u>www.fspi.org.fj</u>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

- In country meetings were held in Tuvalu, Kiribati and Vanuatu between April and June 2004 as part of a complementary project. During these discussions the activities to be implemented under Darwin Living Reefs were explored and tentative programs for incountry implementation drafted.
- Between July and September work plans have undergone further refinement, management arrangements between JWP and FSPI finalised, and terms of reference for project staff finalised.
- In September recruitment commenced in Tuvalu and Kiribati and arrangements finalised for the secondment of a Fisheries staff member to oversee the project delivery in Vanuatu.

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 affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The approved budget was originally spread evenly across the 3 project years. For budget lines associated with in country implementation this should have been spread only across the last two and half years of the project, given the length of time needed for recruitment and establishment of management arrangements. If this is not corrected it is expected to cause an under expenditure of funds in project year 1 and over expenditures in years 2 and 3. This was identified in August and a request submitted for funds to be reallocated to better reflect when actual expenditure is expected to occur.

The approved work plan has also been reviewed since commencement of the project in light of complementary activities by other projects and to improve project logic. Keeping to the approved work plan would not enable the synergies with other projects to be maximised and

may lead to the implementation of activities that do not address the needs of the communities in which the project is being implemented. A revised work plan has also been submitted to Darwin

In finalising management arrangements (contracts) delays were experienced due to the need to ensure that contracts reflected the risks associated with Darwin's payment in arrears policy due to the limited actual cash flow of collaborating institutions. It is not expected to cause any delays to project implementation but it was important to ensure adequate processes to maintain cash flow and share the risk where established at the beginning of the project to minimise these issues leading to delays throughout implementation.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

- 1. An amended budget reflecting the redistribution was submitted to Darwin for approval attached
- 2. An amended work plan was submitted to Darwin for approval attached
- 3. Concerns with Darwin's Payment in arrears policy were raised with the Darwin Secretariat whilst collaborating institutions amended contracts and delivery mechanisms to minimise the impact of this on project delivery. No amendment to the original agreement expected

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:			no/yes, in (month/yr)				

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

NONE

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, <u>stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.</u>