

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-020 : SB001701
Project Title	Network of Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas in Solomon Islands.
Country(ies)	Solomon Islands
UK Organisation	WWF UK
Collaborator(s)	WWF South Pacific Programme
Report date	October 26, 05
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
Project website	www.wwfpacific.org.fj

- 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).**

This reporting period is from 1 July to 26 October 2005.

Project Establishment

- Recruitment of project manager and four field officers

Actual ground work began in late July and early August when the recruitment of the project manager and 2 field officers was conducted, respectively. While four candidates were interviewed for the field officer posts, only two were eligible because of their greater understanding of the community dynamics, culture and language. The two selected field officers also reside within the vicinity of the project area. Re-advertising at a later date, resulted in the recruitment of two additional field officers, bringing the total to four field officers, and completing the recruitment process for the project.

- Community liaison (site selection)

Community liaison is seen as the major stepping stone in implementing sustainable resource management in 'customary-owned' systems. Four project sites have been agreed and all four communities have now been visited twice. The first round of visits involved consultations with the chief and elders of the village. The second round of visits involved introducing the whole program of work to the community members in two of the sites, namely, *Karaka* and *Kekoro*. Full community consultations for the two remaining communities are currently underway.

- WWF SI staff training programme

A training needs analysis was undertaken and a programme developed. Training of staff was conducted immediately after recruitment and included an introduction to earth science, marine science, community studies, environmental economics, the WWF Program and working practices. Two survey training methods were also undertaken, including an overview of Reef Check and Sea Grass Watch. Scuba training (Open Water Diver) for all field officers was completed.

- Educational tool kit & multi-media materials

Preliminary design of educational materials is currently underway. This will include a poster and brochure as well as a tool-kit for schools. A WWF SI radio programme on the importance of marine protected areas is also underway.

