## **Darwin Initiative**

### Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we <u>will not be able to</u> <u>confirm receipt of reports</u> 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	<u>www.wwfpacific.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).

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.

• Data base for biological data & Biological Surveying ID materials

A database for biological data has been established with the help of the GCRMN (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network). In getting ready for the biological surveys and baseline surveys, identification packages were designed. Identification criteria have been adopted from the Reef Check, GCRMN and Seagrass Watch surveying methods.

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.

An agreed delay to the start resulted in activities commencing in July 2005.

One of the selected communities was sceptical of the programme, due to previous experiences with outsiders investing in the development of their resources. Continual dialogue between the project manager and community leaders allowed their trust of the project and WWF to be built and the community now has a clearer understanding of the program. Consequently, full community support of the program was given. For this reason, it took longer to recruit a Field Officer from Boeboe community, although this too is now completed.

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

No

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:

no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

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

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

No

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</u> **project reference number in the header of your email message.**