

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-020
<b>Project Title</b>	Network of Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas in Solomon Islands
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Solomon Islands
<b>UK Organisation</b>	WWF-UK
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	WWF-SI
<b>Project Leader</b>	Louise Heaps
<b>Report date</b>	1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website</b>	

**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).**

- *Post tsunami rapid marine assessments/biological surveys undertaken in each of the 4 Darwin Initiative community MPAs.*
- *Post tsunami PRAs/Fisher surveys completed in each of the 4 communities*
- *Post tsunami assessment of project-related infrastructure (MPA maps, MPA sign boards, MPA beacons and project equipment storage areas) in each of the 4 communities*
- *Data being entered into the WWF Database, preliminary report prepared.*
- *Report on seagrass, mangrove, macro algae surveys completed and submitted by consultant. Posters on marine plants of Darwin communities printed.*
- *Response to Mid Term Review completed and submitted.*
- *Delayed Annual report prepared and submitted.*
- *2 media releases on the post tsunami marine assessments and outcomes prepared.*
- *2 radio interviews with staff on the WWF weekly national radio marine programme*
- *Internal Monitoring & Evaluation in June.*
- *Funding proposal for post tsunami conservation and livelihood support activities drafted*

**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.**

*On 2 April 2007 the Western Province of Solomon Islands was hit by a magnitude 8.1 earthquake and subsequent tsunami. One of the worst affected areas was the Pienuna community and MPA on Ranongga Island where the entire island was uplifted causing the reef systems to be raised out of the water by 3 metres.*

*This initial event and the subsequent extended period of aftershocks significantly disrupted the programme of activities for the Darwin Initiative project. All activities were suspended in the immediate weeks following the disaster to allow staff and communities time to deal with the event, and ensure they were in safe locations and provided with shelter and supplies. WWF was involved during these early post disaster weeks with aid distribution to affected communities.*

*In the last week of May and then through the month of June, WWF staff undertook marine assessments of the MPA sites and conducted fisher surveys to determine the impact of the disaster on partner communities. The WWF Sustainable Livelihood Officer conducted a separate survey of the two Darwin Initiative sites where fishermen are participating in the*

WorldFish Center sustainable marine aquarium trade project to determine the affects of the earthquake and tsunami on the coral, clam and post larval fish farms. Following the surveys, there was a period of data entry and report preparation.

The assessments have guided the following decisions on activities: a) Ranongga MPA is now a coral reef rehabilitation area. WWF and WorldFish Center have jointly applied for post disaster funds from Packard Foundation to trial near shore Fish Aggregating Devices to relieve fishing pressure on the damaged reefs and to provide alternative source of protein and economic income from fishing. Sustainable livelihood activities will also include a mix of ecotourism and organic market gardening; b) Boboe and Nusatuva reefs have been damaged but will be monitored for recovery. Activities will also include replacing lost infrastructure such as MPA markers and signboards and repairs to the WWF site office. Livelihood activities will include a mix of ecotourism and organic market gardening as well as the clam/coral farming/aquaculture projects through the WorldFish Center sustainable marine aquarium trade project; c) Karaka livelihoods is focusing on honey bee farming and repairs will be made to the damaged WWF site office.

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

WWF Solomon Islands provided a revised logframe and activities programme in the Annual Report and also separate emails were sent to the DI by project leader Louise Heaps advising of the events of April and alerting DI to the disruption to the programme.

Separate email was sent to DFRA requesting acceptance of proposed changes to the logframe, outputs and activities due to the tsunami and the Mid Term Review which recommended changes.

The WWF response to the MTR also addresses the proposed revised logframe and outputs.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**    **yes, in April 07; August & Sept 07**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:**    **yes, from April 2007 to June 2008**

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

WWF SI has found the process of liaising between a number of different people a challenge in terms communication and project administration. This has been a specific issue when waiting on advice regarding roll over of budgets and changes in activities/budgets etc. This was captured during the mid-term evaluation and has been resolved by confirming the correct email address for the Project Manager and by more direct contact with DEFRA from the field office.

The difference in financial years between DEFRA and WWF SI has caused some confusion and difficulties with cash flow. This was also raised during the mid-term evaluation. Several requests for annual roll overs were requested as the project officially started 3 months later than the start of the DEFRA financial year. This delayed start date was agreed by DEFRA, but the roll overs were not accepted. This has led to a loss of roughly GBP 13,000 from the total project budget. The project is on track for expenditure for the remaining project life cycle.

**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 planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**