

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	15/009
Project Title	Investing in island biodiversity: restoring the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher.
Country(ies)	Seychelles
UK Contract Holder Institution	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent.
UK Partner Institution(s)	RARE, Royal Society for the Conservation of Birds (RSPB), Kent Business School (KBS), Wildlife Vets International (WVI)
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Nature Seychelles, Government of Seychelles, Denis Island Limited
Darwin Grant Value	£227,966
Start/End dates of Project	01 September 2006 / 30 August 2009.
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	01 April 2007 – 31 March 2008. Annual report number 2.
Project Leader Name	Dr Jim Groombridge
Project website	DICE (Project Leader) webpage http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/seychelles.html Host country partner webpage http://www.natureseychelles.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=274&Itemid=106 BirdLife International webpage http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/01/seychelles_paradise-flycatcher.html
Author(s), date	Rachel Bristol and Jim Groombridge, April 2008

1. Project Background

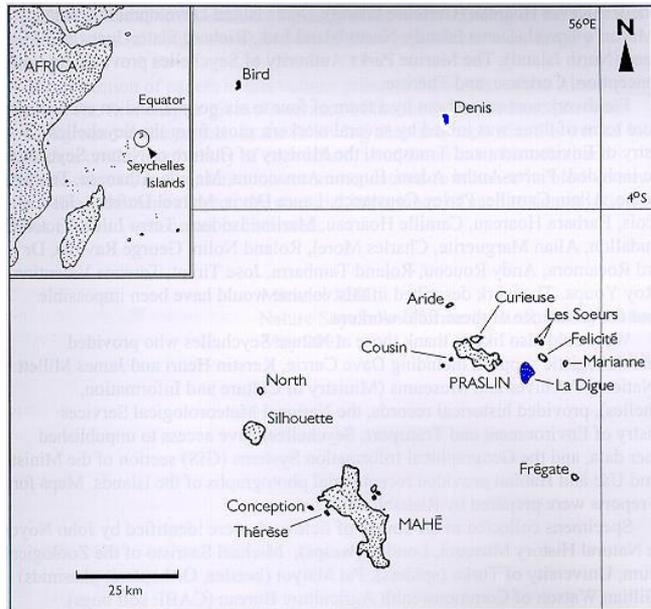
The Seychelles has demonstrated significant achievements in species conservation, but continued success is restricted by a lack of experience and capacity in integrating conservation with socio-economic factors, against a backdrop of rapid social change and economic downturn. The critically endangered Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher was historically found on at least five Seychelles islands, but is today restricted to a single small population within a 160ha range on La Digue Island. The population is close to carrying-capacity, in a shrinking habitat threatened by development. The species recovery plan, approved in 2001, seeks to create additional breeding populations on restored islands, has only recently become feasible; 140ha Denis Island, locally owned, is now predator-free (cats and rats were eradicated in 2002) and has restored native forest.

Figure 1. Site map showing La Digue and Denis Islands in blue.

PREVIOUS CONSTRAINTS TO

CONSERVATION PROGRESS: (1) Lack of technical capacity to implement translocation; (2) reluctance of La Digue community to see a new population of ‘their’ flycatcher established elsewhere (3) lack of capacity to undertake the stakeholder and community work essential to identify incentives and negotiate support.

More widely, these issues suggest that the value of Seychelles’ biodiversity is not fully appreciated. Costs for island restoration are well known, but socio-economic benefits to island stakeholders are not. What benefit does investment in conservation bring to islands? Partnership with Denis Island Limited provides a unique case-study of the linkages between investment in an island’s biodiversity value and commercial returns for the Seychelles.



PROJECT SOLUTIONS:

(i) Situation Analysis: Assisted by Kent Business School, the project aims to identify key stakeholders and social and economic factors influencing them, and to assess benefits and promote incentives for conservation action on Denis and La Digue.

(ii) Conservation Education & Advocacy: A campaign on La Digue in conservation education and engagement, to gain local collaboration in Flycatcher conservation activities, will target schools, local communities, decision-makers and other key stakeholders. Participation in ‘RARE Pride’ course will provide capacity to the Seychelles Wildlife Clubs co-ordinator to lead a biodiversity-linked training programme aimed at park staff at *La Veuve Special Reserve* on La Digue, and leaders of the Seychelles Wildlife Clubs. This will lead to continuation of the programme after the project is completed. UK expertise from RARE and RSPB will support local partners.

(iii) Conservation actions: The project utilises UK expertise in avian conservation (DICE, RSPB and WVI) to implement the flycatcher species recovery plan, principally through developing appropriate translocation methodology; translocation to Denis; training personnel in monitoring techniques; and restoration of additional Flycatcher habitat on Denis.

2. Project Partnerships

The partnership between the UK lead institution and the host country partners has further developed and refined over the past year:

The DICE/Nature Seychelles partnership has continued to support Nature Seychelles to develop their capacity to deliver conservation education and awareness through supporting Nature Seychelles staff member Terence Vel (TMV) to undertake a Diploma in Conservation Education at the University of Kent.

The Project Officer Rachel Bristol (PO) has worked in close collaboration with the lead host country partner Nature Seychelles, in particular TMV to help plan and execute his RARE pride social marketing campaign on La Digue. The PO has also worked closely with the Nature Seychelles Science coordinator to build capacity in translocation planning and methodology and providing guidance and input into an upcoming translocation of Seychelles magpie-robins to be undertaken by Nature Seychelles.

The PO has developed a strong working relationship with Denis Island management through the habitat rehabilitation work we are undertaking on Denis Island and through the planning for the upcoming SPF conservation introduction to Denis. This relationship has further built and reinforced Denis Island management’s commitment to conservation of Seychelles biodiversity and will likely result in further habitat rehabilitation efforts and threatened species introductions to Denis in the future.

The PO has worked in close collaboration with the Government of Seychelles Ministry of Environment (GOS-MENR) staff throughout the planning for the flycatcher conservation introduction. This close collaboration has built up trust where initially there was none. It is important to remember that our project start date was set back 3 months due to GOS concerns related to the sensitive nature of this project.

The relationship has strengthened and strong GOS support is now in place due to the frank and open communication channels put in place by the Project Leader Jim Groombridge (PL) and the PO.

The WVI has helped other Seychelles avian conservation efforts with avian health screening advice and parasite identification.

Links with RARE conservation have strengthened during the progress of TMV's RARE pride campaign, raising Nature Seychelles knowledge of social marketing practices and their ability to change attitudes and practices.

DICE, through its partnerships with the Seychelles project partner organisations and through negotiating and working with local project partners, has further developed its staff capacity to be an effective project partner in situations where different cultures, beliefs and views must be negotiated in order to achieve project purpose. The PL has visited Seychelles once this year at a crucial time where permission was sought from the La Digue Development Board to translocate flycatchers to Denis Island. There were some heated and passionate discussions as Board members had strong and differing views on the matter of translocation to Denis Island. However, these issues have now been resolved.

Other Collaboration:

Our relationship has grown and strengthened with the La Digue Development Board and community leaders, including the La Digue Member of the National Assembly and the District Administrator. The PO has been working closely with them over the past year. As a result they are more aware of the flycatchers' needs and what they can do to help, and have come on side regarding translocation to Denis Island. As the District Administrator put it, "Initially I was against the translocation, but you have worked closely with us for the past year and convinced me that we need to do it."

By developing capacity of host country partner staff in conservation education and awareness campaigning, in avian field research methods and in avian translocation methodologies, over the past year DICE has helped the host country institutions build their capacity to meet Seychelles CBD commitments through contributing to Seychelles NBSAP Goals 3 **increase in-situ conservation of biodiversity**; Policy Objective 3.6 to '*rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote recovery of threatened species*' by campaigning and gaining acceptance to implement the action plan to save a critically endangered bird species endemic to Seychelles; and by restoring native broad-leafed forest on Denis Island, Goal 7 **improve biodiversity related research and training** Policy Objective 7.2 to '*encourage and promote research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*' by the PL and WVI, UK partners training and advising the local PO and Nature Seychelles partner staff in avian research techniques which they are now using to undertake research on the SPF; Goal 8 **augment public education and awareness of biodiversity** Policy Objective 8.1 to '*promote public understanding of the importance of - and measures required to conserve – biological diversity*', by implementing a public awareness campaign on La Digue and Policy Objective 8.2 to '*seek local and international co-operation to strengthen capacity for public awareness programs*', by instilling active partnerships between the Seychelles partners and four UK/international organisations.

This project has a strong link with the Seychelles CBD focal point, Mr Selby Remie. Selby is our designated GOS point of contact regarding this project and he is also a member of our Darwin project's steering committee.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Project activities for Project Year 2 (April 2007-March 2008)

Conservation education campaign

Training

Economic research

Translocation

Habitat restoration

Progress on implementation of these activities for Project year 2 are reported below, under the outputs they contribute towards.

Output 1. Stakeholders identified and engaged

Activity. Conservation education campaign: Project year 2:, questionnaire x1.

Locally relevant environmental school teaching materials are still being worked on by Nature Seychelles environmental education staff TMV and Lyndy Bastienne-Corgat, with input and guidance from RSPB's international education manager, Mr Barrie Cooper. We have found that there is so much information we can adapt to make interesting and relevant educational materials related to flycatchers and conservation of the environment in Seychelles that this activity has grown in size beyond what was originally envisaged and is hence taking longer than originally planned to complete. A final draft of the materials will be taken back to the La Digue teachers who helped design them in a workshop planned for July for their final comments and approval before going to print. Once the materials are back from the printers, Barrie Cooper will then lead a second workshop scheduled for October 2008 to present the materials to the teachers and demonstrate different ways they can be used. The Build-a-bird kit of 6 Seychelles bird species is completed (x 8 kits). This teaching aid can be used to demonstrate adaptations of birds to their habitats, identification, and conservation of habitats. These build-a-bird kits will be demonstrated in the workshop in October and then handed-over to the schools along with the teaching materials and aids.

A questionnaire of over 300 La Digue citizens was completed in May 2007. The questionnaire provided information on Diguois knowledge of flycatchers, their feelings about translocation, and if and when they listen to/watch the radio and TV, providing valuable information on when and how to best get our message across to the community.

A second questionnaire designed to quantify the impact of the education and awareness campaign on La Digue is scheduled for May 08 to coincide with the end of the RARE social marketing campaign. The questionnaire will be designed to quantify the impact of the education and awareness campaign on (i) the attitudes of the La Digue community towards flycatcher conservation and translocation and (ii) their knowledge of flycatchers. Note: RARE has re-scheduled the end of Pride campaigns from Mar-April 08 to June 2008 and we have rescheduled our RARE campaign in line with this timeline.

The 2nd questionnaire is listed in the implementation timetable to be done in year 1 of the project, however upon starting the project we realised this no longer made sense, as the idea of the second questionnaire is to reassess stakeholders knowledge about flycatchers and their support for translocation post campaign, and to quantify the effect of the education and awareness campaign. Therefore, we have re-scheduled the survey to the end of the campaign, which is May 2008.

Survey #1 has been carried out in the manner and timeframe planned. Survey #2 has been rescheduled to coincide with the end of the education and awareness campaign and will be carried out in the manner planned in May 2008. The teaching materials and aids are behind the original timeframe however they will be more substantial than originally planned and they will be finished well within the timeframe of the project.

Output 2. Socioeconomic studies identify clear benefits of conservation programme to Denis Island Ltd. and to the La Digue Community.

Activity. Economic research: Project Year 2: Research and data collection on La Digue and Denis completed by end year 2; Socio-economic data analysed by month 30; Socio-economic final reports and manuscripts produced by end year 3.

Dr. Iain Fraser from the Kent Business School visited Seychelles in June 2007 to meet with various stakeholders on La Digue, Mahé and Denis to continue his socio-economic research, and to provide input and supervision to DICE Masters student Diogo Verissimo's field research and data collection.

Diogo Verissimo has successfully completed his MSc research project in Seychelles, on avian conservation and the flagship species model with a focus on the Flycatcher on La Digue including quantifying what attributes define a good flagship species and the capacity of a flagship species as (i) an ecotourism marketing tool, (ii) to raise funds for conservation and (iii) to raise environmental awareness. Diogo, in collaboration with other DI project staff, collaborators and supervisors, has written a scientific publication entitled "*Unwrapping the flagship species concept: A case study on tropical islands*" on his findings, which has now been submitted to *Conservation Biology* journal for publication.

Dr. Iain Fraser has designed a survey of visitors (tourists) to La Digue in order to determine what makes them visit La Digue, how long they stay on La Digue, and what activities would make extend their stay. To date, we have surveyed over 150 visitors to La Digue with the help of the La Digue School wildlife club and we will collect more surveys over the next few months.

This data will, amongst other things, provide a series of ideas for potential small business and other conservation-friendly activities that the local community could instigate on La Digue to supplement livelihoods.

Collection of data for socioeconomic studies is ongoing under the direction of Dr. Iain Fraser and is being carried out in the manner and timeframe planned except for presenting flycatcher friendly incentives/benefits back to the La Digue community in a workshop on La Digue scheduled in the implementation timetable for May 2007. We have discussed ideas of flycatcher friendly business ideas at workshops and meetings on La Digue on several occasions, but we have not yet reported back formally as the ideas will be far better researched if we incorporate the data we are collecting from the tourist survey as to what kinds of activities would make tourists extend their stay on La Digue. This activity is scheduled for later in the project.

Output 3. Stakeholder support secured through increased awareness of flycatchers critical status and needs

Activity. Conservation education campaign: Project Year 2: Posters, leaflets, educational materials designed and printed end project year 1, TV coverage x 1, radio coverage x 3; national newspaper articles x 4 by project end.

During this reporting period we have gained formal approval from the GOS for Denis Island as the choice of first island to receive a translocated SPF population (see annex 5). The PO took the GOS Director of Conservation and the Senior conservation officer on a site visit to Denis Island, where they saw first-hand (i) the quantity and quality of habitat available for flycatchers on Denis (ii) habitat rehabilitation work being undertaken by DI project staff Anselm Barra and Maurice Rose, and (iii) a presentation of the islands sustainable use management plan. This visit, along with our island assessment document submitted last financial year, led to the GOS accepting Denis as suitable for SPF.

We have gained formal support from the LDDDB (who represent the La Digue community and take decisions on their behalf) including the District Administrator and the Member of the National Assembly for La Digue, to translocate flycatchers to Denis Island and other islands (see annex 10). This is a major and pivotal achievement for this project effectively allowing us to move ahead and undertake the translocation.

In this 12 month reporting period we (PO and /or TMV) have conducted 20 school visits, numerous community visits, 4 meetings with the LDDDB, 8 presentations and 6 field trips on La Digue to i) increase knowledge and awareness of flycatchers, ii) raise awareness of the need to create additional flycatcher populations and iii) explain why we have selected Denis Island for translocation of flycatchers.

In addition, the PO has led 3 site visits to Denis Island for Ministry of Environment officials, La Digue community members and La Digue Development Board members in order for them to see for themselves the good quality habitat available on Denis for Flycatchers and the similarity of the forest to that of the La Digue plateau.

The LDDDB were subjected to 4 presentations from the PO and subsequently voted in support of flycatcher translocations to Denis and other islands in the future- see annex 10. As the La Digue District Administrator said to the PO and PL "Initially I was against the translocation but you have worked closely with us for the past year and convinced me that we need to do it."

A survey to be conducted at the end of the RARE Pride campaign will quantify attitudes towards translocation (see output 1) however it is clear on La Digue that many (but obviously not all) community members have come around to support translocation of flycatchers as they now recognise the necessity of the action.

2000 leaflets about flycatchers, their status and their future, have been produced and disseminated on La Digue -see annex 6. Two large 2m x 1.2m poster type displays have been produced and exhibited in an Environment and Art-recycling exhibition on La Digue centred on Flycatchers - see annex 7. The displays have now been donated to the La Veuve (flycatcher) Special Reserve Visitors' Centre on La Digue where they are on permanent display. An additional poster has been produced and printed (x 500 copies) in partnership with the RARE Pride flycatcher campaign and has been distributed on La Digue – see annex 14.

Pin badges of both male (1500) and female flycatchers (1500) have been designed, cast and disseminated on La Digue. We produced small business sized cards with the Darwin Initiative and other project partner logos and a brief strap-line and attached each pin to one before dissemination. See annex 8.

In addition to planned materials a 500 bumper stickers and 500 A-Z educational Seychelles environment booklets have been produced by TMV as part of the RARE pride campaign. See annex 14.

Six full pages in Nature Seychelles full colour magazine "ZWAZO" ("bird" in Creole) have been devoted to this DI flycatcher project. This magazine is produced biannually and is widely distributed both within and outside Seychelles.

Five radio programmes concentrating on different aspects of the DI flycatcher project have been broadcast on national radio on the weekly programme "Nature Watch".

Television coverage of the public Environment and Art-recycling exhibition held at La Digue School in September 07 was screened on the National news in September.

An hour long Television documentary based on flycatcher conservation and the reaction of the local community to translocation was filmed on La Digue in September 07 by Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (National Television) and will be broadcast within the next month.

Reuters have filmed a Television documentary on the flycatcher –human interaction on La Digue and the human issues involved in conservation of this bird with the DI PO and the RARE pride flycatcher campaign manager TMV in May 2007. The documentary has been shown on REUTERS since February 2008 and we have feedback it has been played on South-African TV.

The documentary can be viewed on this website:

<http://www.reuters.com/news/video/videoStory?videoId=75507>

All aspects of the social marketing campaign have been undertaken in the manner and timeframe planned, apart from gaining permission from the LDDDB to translocate flycatchers to Denis which took 2 months longer than expected. Refer to the discussion under Output 5 below for further explanation of the effect of this 2 month delay.

Output 4. Local capacity to deliver targeted conservation education, socio-economic research and facilitate conflict resolution improved.

Activity. Training: Project Year 2: RARE Pride diploma in conservation education (Yr1&2), Training Biodiversity –linked workshop (Yr2)

TMV has been working full time on his RARE pride social marketing campaign on La Digue and his course work for his diploma in conservation education. He has finished all his University assignments that will contribute to his Diploma in Conservation Education and his field based social marketing campaign has been in full swing all year and is on schedule and will be completed in May 2008 in the manner and time planned. He will then return to the University of Kent in June for the final 2 weeks of course work. RARE has re-scheduled their end of Campaign for the cohort that TMV is in from March 08 to May 08 and in line with this TMV has rescheduled his campaign end from March 08 to May 08.

An additional activity has been instigated under this output. We (PL and PO) are delighted to announce that we have secured a scholarship position on the highly recommended Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate training course at Durrell Wildlife in Jersey for Miss Josianna Rose, the Conservation Ranger for the Ministry of Environment on La Digue. Josianna will attend the 3 month course at the Durrell International Training Centre in Jersey, September-December 2008.

A 3 day residential biodiversity- linked training workshop was held at the Nature Seychelles Island Conservation Centre on Praslin in August. Workshop participants (total 18) comprising 5 Ministry of Environment (MENR) staff from La Veuve Reserve on La Digue, 3 MENR staff from Praslin, 4 teachers and 3 wildlife club leaders from La Digue school, and 3 teachers and wildlife club leaders from Praslin and Mahé schools. The workshop was led by RARE pride flycatcher campaign manager TMV and assisted with various presentations and training activities by the DI Project Officer and Nature Seychelles- Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles coordinator Lyndy Bastienne-Corgat.

In addition a 3 day Wildlife clubs of Seychelles new leaders training workshop was held for 16 wildlife club leaders designed to equip them to run an effective wildlife club and to have a range of ideas and activities and fun ways to pass environmental and biodiversity conservation information on to children the training course was run by TMV and Lyndy Batienné- Corgat.

All training activities have been carried out in the manner and time frame planned.

Output 5. Translocation best practice researched, agreed by all stakeholders and translocation implemented.

Activity. Translocation Project Year 2: Complete survey of La Digue Flycatcher population; translocation plan approved by stakeholders (yr2), Disease profiling (Yr2); translocate flycatchers (yr2).

Darwin Secretariat has approved our request to move the translocation timing from February 2008 to November 2008. Progress is to new schedule and indicators remain appropriate.

An additional activity to that planned in the project is underway. Detailed monitoring of 25 SPF pairs on La Digue designed to collect detailed information on breeding success commenced in November 2007 and is ongoing.

The Island wide flycatcher survey has been completed. Numbers on the highly developed western plateau of La Digue have decreased by 1/3 since the last survey in 2000 (this decrease is directly

correlated to habitat loss) while numbers on the hill have increased by c.13% since 2001. Total numbers have remained relatively stable.

We have gained formal support from the GOS for Denis Island as the choice of island for the first flycatcher translocation. We have gained formal support for flycatcher translocations to Denis (and other islands in the future) from the LDDB. We have submitted a Conservation Introduction proposal to the GOS for final approval –see annex 11. We have sent the Conservation Introduction proposal to the Reintroduction Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN for their endorsement (this is not necessary for the translocation to go ahead, but it will be an additional endorsement for the proposed translocation and methodologies).

Disease profiling of common bird species on Denis and La Digue Islands and an accompanying disease risk assessment have been completed and incorporated into the Conservation Introduction (translocation) proposal which has been submitted to the GOS for final approval –see annex 11.

The Conservation Introduction timeframe has been updated from Feb 08 to November 2008 due to several factors. The Digue Development Board was re-elected in July 2007 and a number of members on the Board changed and this, combined with our 3 month delay in project commencement (approved by DI secretariat at the time), delayed our progress in gaining formal support for a flycatcher translocation to Denis by end September 2007(see project implementation timetable). In addition we had originally planned to do the flycatcher translocation in January- February 2008 (refer to project implementation timetable), however further research has revealed that the best time to undertake the flycatcher translocation in order to give it the highest chance of success, is directly prior to the main flycatcher breeding season (December – March) i.e. November. We did not end up getting all the relevant permissions in time to do the translocation in November 2007, so we have re-scheduled until November 2008 (we have sought and received permission to reschedule the translocation to November 2008 from the Darwin Secretariat (see annex 13) and we have also requested and received confirmation that we can carry forward the money earmarked in this financial year's budget specifically for translocation into next (2008/09) financial year (see annex 12). In addition we now have the relevant permissions so the translocation can go ahead in November 2008. The timeline change will not affect the project as we will still have plenty of time to implement all project activities and outputs and to achieve all project outcomes within the project lifespan as i) other project activities are not dependant on translocation timing and ii) our project end date is not until August 2009. We and the Darwin Initiative secretariat have been aware of the risk involved in gaining permissions from the La Digue community right from project inception, so we planned the project so that all project activities, outputs and outcomes could be achieved in a competent and timely fashion regardless of whether the translocation occurs in 2007 or 2008.

Output 6. Additional flycatcher habitat created on Denis Island

Activity. Habitat Restoration Project Year 2: coconut palms removed and native trees produced and planted out (yr1&2); Ongoing watering/weeding of planted trees.

Two full time habitat restoration project staff (Anselm Barra and Maurice Rose) began work on Denis in July 2007, and progress on habitat restoration activities on Denis to date is excellent and has been carried out in the manner and timeframe planned.

Our plant propagation nursery was completed early in August 2007 and the first batch of c.1500 young trees has already been planted out into the area cleared of coconuts and are growing well. The Nursery is now full of the second batch of seeds and seedlings planted into plastic-bag plant pots. Coconut clearance is progressing well and to schedule and large areas cleared of coconuts have already been planted out with native trees propagated in our nursery on Denis See Annex 9 for photos of the plant nursery and the coconut clearance. All the newly planted out trees had to be watered by hand for about 2 months in February and March to avoid death by dehydration as almost no rain fell, however the watering was sufficient and the plants are growing well.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

This 36 month project has now been running for 18 months so we are exactly ½ way into the project. To date, overall progress in working towards achievement of project outputs is good and on schedule and we fully anticipate achieving all project outputs by project close in September 2009. The Project is continually overseen by the PO and the PL using the logical framework and the output indicators to measure our success at achieving project outputs. Output level assumptions still hold true. Progress

towards outputs is also described in the narrative above in 3.1 and in the standard output measures below in 3.3

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code Number	Description	Year 1 total	Year 2 total	Year 3 total	Year 4 total	TOTAL
3	20 Seychellois conservation managers receive DWCT ITC Facilitators Training Course certificates after completing 7day intensive workshop (140 training days)	140				
6A,6B	20 Seychellois WCS leaders and La Veuve Special Reserve staff to attend 4 day Biodiversity-linked conservation education training workshop (workshop)		To date 18 people x 3 days = 54			
7	350 x Information leaflets, posters and educational materials designed and printed.		6			
9	Final Socioeconomic and investment technical report produced					
11B	2 socioeconomic and 1x translocation papers submitted to relevant high quality peer reviewed journals					
14a	1 Workshop on La Digue to present findings of socio-economic research to community and Board.					
15A	4 National press releases on progress and key findings of project (Seychelles has no local press).	2				
18A	2 National TV coverage of project activities	1	2			
19A	3 National radio interviews/features	1	5			
20	Laptop, mistnets, chainsaw, fully functional plant nursery& equipment (spades, hoses etc) £					
23	All funding from other sources including (in kind) person hours, accommodation, travel etc, £					
9/other	1 Report to La Digue community and Development board exploring incentives for La Digue community to benefit more from flycatchers.					
Other	WCS coordinator successfully completes RARE Pride conservation educators course diploma					
Other	Best practice translocation manual produced.					
Other	15-20 hectares of broad-leafed native forest restored on Denis Island.					
Other	New flycatcher population established on					

	Denis Island.					
Other	Final Report to Darwin Initiative (3 months post project completion)					
8	UK project staff time (weeks) spent in Seychelles	3	4			
2	DICE MSc student successfully completes MSc (Portugese)		1			
14B	WCS leaders training workshop on how to successfully lead a wildlife club. (16 leaders x 3 days = 48 person days)		48			

Table 2 Publications

Type *	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
MSc Thesis	Verissimo, D. Unwrapping the flagship species concept: using tropical island birds as a case study, 2007. Submitted to Conservation Biology.	unpublished	DICE, University of Kent	
Translocation proposal *	Conservation Introduction proposal for Seychelles paradise flycatchers from LA Digue to Denis Island. Rachel Bristol and Jim Groombridge, 2008	Unpublished	_____ _____	free

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

A request to the DI secretariat to modify the wording of one of our purpose level measurable indicators from "SPF removed from critically endangered to endangered on IUCN Red List" to state "*Take firm steps towards the SPF being removed from critically endangered to endangered status in the IUCN list, by attempting to establish a second population through translocation.*" as recommended by the Reviewer of our annual report 1, as been approved by the DI secretariat, see annex 4) as this indicator cannot be measured in the timeframe of the project as it will not be until some time after project closure that the flycatchers IUCN red list status will be re-assessed.

Progress towards the project purpose of providing incentives, investment and technical expertise to improve the conservation status of the Seychelles flycatcher is good. Purpose level assumptions hold true and indicators are now adequate towards measuring outcomes within the project timeframe.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

It will be more appropriate and useful to report on this nearer to the end of the project.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

The project is continually overseen by the Project Leader and the Project Officer using the logical framework and agreed outputs and milestones for guidance. The Project Officer compiles regular project updates to the project steering committee covering project progress and receives feedback from the committee. In this way the project is continually monitored and evaluated internally.

The major lessons we have learned from this year's work is to always keep all parties that are involved in a project, or that can have a serious impact on the project, up to date on project activities and planning. We have found that if parties are kept informed of project progress and activities they are much more supportive and less inclined to oppose even potentially controversial actions.

The second lesson we have learned is how important knowledge and the transfer of that knowledge to local communities is in order to gain support for conservation actions. If one wants to change peoples'

attitudes and opinions it is vitally important to provide those people with information and facts in a way that they can easily access and absorb. This also takes time, and the time it takes to effectively plan and undertake a good education and awareness raising campaign should not be underestimated. Too often, opinions are based on incorrect information and many people, once they have been provided with accurate information, see the logic of actions proposed by conservationists and completely reverse their opinion and support it. This is what we have experienced throughout this project.

These lessons learned are lessons that will stay with us for life. They will be incorporated into the rest of this project and certainly into future projects.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

All project partners were very pleased with the review of our first annual report. As our project had only been running for 6 months at the time of submission of our first annual report, the reviewer requested our October 2007 ½ year report be more detailed than normal regarding reporting of progress on project activities in order to constitute a more robust measuring tool for progress because the project would then have been running for 1 year. We provided a more detailed ½ year report with project progress reported against the project logframe.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Project difficulties setbacks and risks encountered during the year have all been overcome. They have also all been discussed in other areas of this report so will not be repeated here.

7. Sustainability

This project has maintained a high public profile in Seychelles throughout this reporting period with 5 national radio programmes specifically dedicated to this project. They have covered the work we are doing with the flycatchers on La Digue, the education and awareness campaign, and local La Digue community members' views on flycatchers and translocation.

In addition, the education and awareness campaign has been ongoing on La Digue with a lot of activities, field-trips and presentations about the project and flycatchers, so on La Digue the project profile is very high. We have also had National Television coverage of some of these activities with the PO and TMV interviewed on National Television which definitely boosts the project profile nationally.

In addition to expected project outputs we have secured a scholarship position on the highly rated Durrell Wildlife's "Durrell Endangered Species management Graduate certificate" course at the Jersey Zoo for Josianna Rose a Seychelloise MENR Conservation Ranger based in the Veuve (flycatcher) Special Reserve on La Digue. This will significantly raise the capacity of the La Digue MENR staff in the area of endangered species management. We are delighted with this outcome.

The strong partnerships with the host country partners and the training of host country partner staff under this project will ensure a clear exit strategy and that project impacts are sustained. In fact it is probable that the ground work of this project will facilitate further island restoration and translocations of threatened birds to the benefit of Seychelles biodiversity.

8. Dissemination

During this project year we have concentrated on dissemination of education and awareness raising materials such as an educational leaflet about flycatchers, their status and their future, posters and bumper stickers with strap-lines on them about flycatcher conservation, and an A-Z Seychelles environment at a glance booklet. These materials have been widely distributed on La Digue, our main target audience.

In the latter stages of the project when we have more results, reports and papers finished we plan to disseminate via workshops, stakeholder meetings, the press, scientific papers and through the Seychelles Wildlife clubs.

The dissemination will be continued by Nature Seychelles and the PO Rachel Bristol after the project finishes as Rachel is a Seychelloise and lives and works in Seychelles, and TMV works for Nature Seychelles as an environmental educator.

9. Project Expenditure

**Table 3
March)**

Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project application)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others :			
Restoration Team			
Materials			
Audit			
Salaries (specify)			
Rachel Bristol			
Local fieldworkers			
TOTAL			

It has been agreed with the DI secretariat that £ will be carried over into the next financial year. This money is specifically earmarked for the SPF translocation and is for helicopter flights to transport the birds from La Digue to Denis and for the field team's travel and accommodation and subsistence costs. See annex 12. The money has already been removed from the above budget.

10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2007/08

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2008	Actions required/planned for April 2008 – March 2009
<p><i>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>		<p><i>Significant progress in attitude change in Seychelles communities towards conservation of the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher.</i></p>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Purpose To provide incentives, investment and technical expertise to improve the conservation status of the Seychelles Flycatcher (SPF)</p>	<p>One additional SPF population established and breeding on Denis</p> <p>Take firm steps towards the SPF being removed from critically endangered to endangered status in the IUCN list, by attempting to establish a second population through translocation</p>	<p>Formal confirmation from the Government of Seychelles (GOS) supporting Denis Island as location for flycatcher translocation. See annex 5.</p> <p>Formal agreement from La Digue Development Board (LDDB) supporting translocation of flycatchers to Denis Island.</p> <p>Translocation proposal submitted to GOS in March 08 and awaiting response. This is expected to be positive as formal confirmation of support of Denis for SPF translocation has already been given by GOS The Translocation proposal is more about methods, staffing and details.</p>	<p>Translocate SPF to Denis Island.</p> <p>Monitor the translocated birds.</p> <p>Train Josianna Rose (MENR Ranger) at Durrell, Jersey.</p> <p>Continue restoration work on Denis.</p>
<p>Output 1. Stakeholders identified</p>	<p>Stakeholders attend workshops and collaborative</p>	<p>Progress is satisfactory and indicators remain appropriate.</p>	

and engaged	activities	
Activity 1.1. Conservation education campaign: 2 Community workshops on La Digue (year 1)		<p>School teaching materials are still being finalised as we have found that there is so much information we can adapt to make interesting and relevant educational materials related to flycatchers and conservation of the environment that this activity has grown in size to what we originally envisaged and is hence taking longer than originally planned to complete. Materials will be completed and returned to the LA Digue teachers in October 2008.</p> <p>Build-a-bird kit of 6 Seychelles bird species completed (x 8 kits). It is a good teaching aid and can be used to demonstrate adaptations of birds to their habitats, identification and conservation of habitats.</p>
Activity 1.2. Conservation education campaign: Questionnaires x2 (Year 1)		<p>Questionnaire of over 300 La Digue citizens completed in May 07. Questionnaire provided information on Diguois knowledge of flycatchers, their feelings about translocation, if and when they listen to/watch the radio and TV providing valuable information on when and how to best get our message across to the community.</p> <p>Second questionnaire scheduled for May 08 to coincide with the end of the RARE social marketing campaign. Aim is to quantify the impact of the education and awareness campaign on (i) the attitudes of the La Digue community towards flycatcher conservation and translocation and (ii) on their knowledge of flycatchers. (Note RARE has rescheduled end of Pride campaigns from Mar-April 08 to June 2008).</p>
Output 2. Socioeconomic studies identify clear benefits of conservation programme to Denis Island Limited and the La Digue community	<p>Positive net economic investment/ return demonstrated for Denis Island</p> <p>La Digue community demonstrate increased appreciation of value of their islands biodiversity</p> <p>New initiatives identified which can enhance socio-economic benefits to La Digue</p>	<p>Progress is satisfactory and indicators remain appropriate.</p>
Activity 2.1. Economic research: Socio-economic research and data collection completed on La Digue and Denis by end year 2		<p>Dr Iain Fraser visited Seychelles in June 2007 to meet with various stakeholders on La Digue, Mahé and Denis and to continue his socio-economic research.</p> <p>Diogo Verissimo has successfully completed his MSc in Seychelles on avian conservation and the flagship model including quantifying what attributes define a good flagship species and the capacity of a flagship species as i) an ecotourism marketing tool, ii) to raise funds for conservation and iii) to raise environmental awareness. He in collaboration with other project staff and collaborators has written a</p>

		<p>scientific publication which has been submitted to <i>Conservation Biology</i> for publication.</p> <p>Data collection continues. We have designed and are survey of visitors (tourists) to La Digue in order to determine what makes them visit La Digue, how long they stay on La Digue, and what activities would make them stay longer. To date have surveyed over 200 visitors to Visitors to La Digue with the help of the La Digue school wildlife club; data collection continues.</p>
Activity 2.2. Economic research: Socio-economic data analysed by month 30		On schedule
Activity 2.3. Economic research: Socio-economic final reports and manuscripts produced by end year 3.		On schedule
Output 3. Stakeholder support secured through increased awareness of flycatcher's critical status and needs	<p>Increased awareness and appreciation of conservation among La Digue community</p> <p>Consensus in support for translocation by residents of La Digue.</p>	<p>In this 12 month reporting period we (TMV and/or PO) have conducted 20 school visits, numerous community visits, 4 meetings with the La Digue Development Board, 8 presentations and 6 field trips on La Digue to i) increase knowledge and awareness of flycatchers, ii) to raise awareness of the need to create additional flycatcher populations and iii) to explain why we have selected Denis Island.</p> <p>In addition PO has led 3 site visits to Denis Island for Ministry of Environment officials, La Digue community members and LA Digue Development Board members in order for them to see for themselves the good quality habitat available on Denis for Flycatchers and the similarity of the forest to that of the La Digue plateau.</p> <p>The survey to be conducted at the end of the RARE Pride campaign will quantify attitudes towards translocation (see activity 1.2), however it is clear on La Digue that many community members have come around to support translocation of flycatchers as they now recognise the need.</p> <p>LDDDB (who represent the La Digue community and take decisions on their behalf) have formally given their support for flycatcher translocations. The LDDDB were subjected to 4 presentations from the PO and subsequently voted in support of flycatcher translocations to Denis and other islands in the future. Indicator remains appropriate.</p>
Activity 3.1. Conservation education campaign: Posters, leaflets, educational materials designed and printed (end year 1.)		<p>2000 leaflets have been produced and disseminated on La Digue.</p> <p>2 Poster displays have been produced and exhibited in an Environment and Art-recycling exhibition on La Digue centred on Flycatchers. The displays have now been donated to the La Veuve (flycatcher) Special Reserve Visitors' Centre on La Digue where they are on permanent display.</p> <p>Further posters, bumper stickers and an A-Z Seychelles wildlife booklet (500 of each) have been printed in partnership with the RARE Pride flycatcher campaign and have been distributed on La Digue.</p> <p>Pin badges of both male (1500) and female flycatchers (1500) have been designed and cast. We produced small business sized cards to attach each pin to with the Darwin Initiative and other project partner logos and a brief strap-line in preparation for dissemination.</p> <p>In addition 6 full pages in Nature Seychelles' full colour magazine "ZWAZO" ("bird" in Creole) are devoted to this DI flycatcher project. This magazine is produced biannually and is widely distributed</p>

		both within and outside Seychelles.
Activity 3.2. Conservation education campaign: TV coverage of workshops x1; Radio coverage x1; National newspaper articles x4.		<p>Five radio programmes concentrating on different aspects of the flycatcher project have been broadcast on national radio on the weekly programme “Nature Watch”.</p> <p>An hour long Television documentary based on flycatcher conservation and the reaction of the local community to translocation has been filmed on La Digue by Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation ((National Television) and will be broadcast within the next month. (Story line designed by RARE campaign manager TMV and filming assisted by RARE pride flycatcher campaign manager TMV and PO.</p> <p>Reuters have filmed a TV documentary on the flycatcher –human interaction on La Digue and the human issues involved in conservation of this bird with the DI Project Officer and the RARE pride flycatcher campaign manager in May 2007. The documentary has been shown on REUTERS since February 2008 and we have feedback that it has been played on South-African TV.</p> <p>National TV coverage of the public Environment and Art-recycling exhibition held at La Digue School.</p>
Output 4. Local capacity to deliver targeted conservation education, socio-economic research and facilitate conflict resolution improved	<p>WCS coordinator attends formal RARE Pride course</p> <p>20 WCS leaders, and reserve staff trained in conservation education</p> <p>20 Seychellois conservation managers trained in conservation facilitation and stakeholder conflict resolution</p>	<p>An additional activity has been instigated under this output. We (PL and PO) have managed to secure a scholarship position on the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate training course at Durrell in Jersey for Miss Josianna Rose the Conservation Ranger for the Ministry of Environment on La Digue. Josianna will attend the 3 month course September-December 2008. Progress is to schedule and indicators remain appropriate.</p>
Activity 4.1. Training: RARE pride Diploma in conservation education		<p>RARE pride social marketing campaign is currently in full swing on La Digue led by campaign manager Terence Vel and assisted by the DI Project Officer Rachel Bristol. Terence has completed all his assignments contributing to his Diploma in Conservation Education and his campaign is on schedule to be completed on time by end May 08</p>
Activity 4.2. Training: Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT) Facilitator’s course for conservation Management .		-
Activity 4.3. Training: Biodiversity –linked workshop		<p>A 3 day residential biodiversity- linked training workshop was held at the Nature Seychelles Island Conservation Centre on Praslin in August. Workshop participants (total 18) comprising 5 Ministry of Environment (MENR) staff from La Veuve Reserve on La Digue, 3 MENR staff from Praslin, 4 teachers and 3 wildlife club leaders from La Digue school, and 3 teachers and wildlife club leaders from</p>

		<p>Praslin and Mahe schools. The workshop was led by RARE pride flycatcher campaign manager and assisted with various presentations by the DI Project Officer and Nature Seychelles- Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles coordinator Lyndy Bastienne-Corgat.</p> <p>A 3 day Wildlife clubs of Seychelles new leaders training workshop was held for 16 wildlife club leaders designed to equip them to run a wildlife club and to have a range of ideas and activities of fun ways to pass environmental and biodiversity conservation information on to children.</p>
Output 5. Translocation best practice researched, agreed by all stakeholders and translocation implemented	<p>Proposal aligned with IUCN Reintroduction Guidelines</p> <p>Government approve translocation plan</p> <p>Best practice manual produced and widely distributed</p> <p>SPF released and monitored on Denis Island</p>	<p>Darwin Secretariat has approved request to move translocation timing from February 2008 to November 2008. Progress is to new schedule and indicators remain appropriate.</p> <p>Additional detailed monitoring of 25 pairs on LA Digue to collect detailed information on breeding success is underway (since Nov 07) and will be ongoing.</p>
Activity 5.1. Translocation: Survey of La Digue flycatcher population (year 1)		<p>Island wide flycatcher survey completed. Numbers on the highly developed western plateau of La Digue have decreased by 1/3 since the last survey in 2000 (decrease due to habitat loss), while numbers on the hill have increased by c.13% since 2001. Total numbers have remained relatively stable.</p>
Activity 5.2. Translocation: Translocation plan approved by all stakeholders (month 14)		<p>We have gained formal support from the GOS for Denis Island as the choice of Island for the first flycatcher translocation.</p> <p>We have gained formal support for flycatcher translocations to Denis (and other islands in the future) from the LDDB.</p> <p>We have submitted a Conservation introduction proposal to the GOS for final approval.</p> <p>We have sent the Conservation Introduction proposal to the Reintroduction specialist group of the Species Survival commission of the IUCN for their endorsement (this is not necessary for the translocation to go ahead, however it is an additional endorsement for the proposed translocation and proposed methodologies.</p>
Activity 5.3. Translocation: Disease profiling and disease risk assessment completed (by month 16)		<p>Disease profiling of common bird species on Denis and La Digue Islands and accompanying disease risk assessment completed and results included in the above Conservation Introduction proposal</p>
Activity 5.4. Translocation: Translocate flycatchers		<p>The Conservation Introduction timeframe has been updated from Feb 08 to November 2008. Permission to update the timetable has been sought and given from the Darwin Initiative secretariat. The translocation is on schedule to go ahead in November 2008.</p>
Activity 5.5. Translocation: Monitor released birds and donor population recovery (ongoing)		<p>Year 3: Commence monitoring of released SPF and continue monitoring LA Digue population</p>

Activity 5.6. Translocation: Best practice manual produced and widely distributed	This activity is planned for the later stages of this project.
Output 6. Additional flycatcher habitat created on Denis Island	15-20 ha of abandoned coconut plantation cleared and replanted with 12 native broadleaf tree species SPF observed in newly restored habitat
Activity 6.1. Habitat restoration: Nursery established and functional (end yr 1)	Two full time habitat restoration project staff (Anselm Barra and Maurice Rose) began work July 2007 and progress on habitat restoration activities on Denis is to date excellent. Progress is to schedule and indicators remain appropriate.
Activity 6.2. Habitat Restoration: Coconut palms removed and native trees produced & planted out in yr 1-2. Ongoing watering and weeding of planted trees	Nursery completed and the first batch of young trees has already been planted out into the area cleared of coconuts and are growing well. The Nursery is now full of the second batch of seeds and seedlings planted into plastic plant Coconut clearance is progressing well and to schedule and large areas cleared of coconuts have already been planted out with native trees propagated in our nursery on Denis.

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p>			
Purpose			
To provide incentives, investment and technical expertise to improve the conservation status of the Seychelles Flycatcher (SPF)	One additional SPF population established and breeding on Denis Take firm steps towards the SPF being removed from critically endangered to endangered status on the IUCN list, by attempting to establish a second population through translocation.	Post translocation field reports IUCN Red Listing changes	Project advocacy and awareness positively influences stakeholders
Outputs			
Stakeholders identified and engaged	Stakeholders attend workshops and collaborative activities	Workshop and activity reports	
Socioeconomic studies identify clear benefits of conservation programme to Denis Island Limited and the La Digue community	Positive net economic investment/ return demonstrated for Denis Island La Digue community demonstrate increased appreciation of value of their islands biodiversity. New initiatives identified which can enhance socio-economic benefits to La Digue	Report to La Digue Development Board, & Seychelles Government Socio-economic and investment technical reports 1-2 peer-reviewed publications	Denis Island Limited continue to manage the island and enhance biodiversity as a key objective
Stakeholder support secured through increased awareness of flycatcher's critical status and needs	Increased awareness and appreciation of conservation among La Digue community Consensus in support for translocation by residents of La Digue.	Questionnaire data concluding marked increase in support for translocation. Formal resolution agreed with La Digue Development Board	La Digue community is receptive to campaign information, and responds positively

Local capacity to deliver targeted conservation education, socio-economic research and facilitate conflict resolution improved	WCS coordinator attends formal RARE Pride course 20 WCS leaders, and reserve staff trained in conservation education 20 Seychellois conservation managers trained in conservation facilitation and stakeholder conflict resolution	Workshop reports RARE course certificate. Training feedback Student feedback DWCT Facilitators training course certificates.	Trained staff remain with local partners to train others and use the skills gained
Translocation best practice researched, agreed by all stakeholders and translocation implemented	Proposal aligned with IUCN Reintroduction Guidelines Government approve translocation plan Best practice manual produced and widely distributed SPF released and monitored on Denis Island	IUCN approval letter Government approval letter Best practice manual Translocation reports	Denis Island remains rat and cat free for duration of project.
Additional flycatcher habitat created on Denis Island	15-20 ha of abandoned coconut plantation cleared and replanted with 12 native broadleaf tree species SPF observed in newly restored habitat	Fixed point photos of before/after restoration activities. Field maps Project reports	No adverse climatic/stochastic events prevent establishment of newly planted trees
Activities	Activity milestones (summary of project implementation timetable)	Assumptions	
Conservation education campaign	2 community workshops on La Digue (Yr 1). TV coverage of the workshops x1; Questionnaires x2 (Yr1); Radio coverage x3; national newspaper articles x4; Posters, leaflets, educational materials designed and printed (end Yr 1).	Trained staff will integrate with local community leaders to embed support for Flycatcher work.	
Training	RARE pride course (Yr 1-2), Biodiversity-linked workshop (yr2). Durrell Wildlife (DWCT) Conservation managers/ Facilitators training course (7 days) run in Seychelles	Certified training and workshops increase knowledge base.	
Economic research	Research and data collection on La Digue and Denis completed end Yr 2; Data analysed by month 30; Final report and manuscripts produced by end Yr 3.	Surveys of local communities will provide additional data.	

Translocation	Survey of La Digue flycatcher population (Yr1); Translocation plan approved by all stakeholders (month 14); Disease profiling (by month 16); translocate flycatchers (c. month 18); Monitor all released birds and recovery of donor population (ongoing). Best practice manual widely distributed.	Translocation methodology satisfies IUCN Reintroduction Guidelines.
Habitat Restoration	Nursery established & functional end Yr 1; Coconut palms removed and native trees produced & planted out in Yr 1-2.Ongoing watering/weeding of planted trees.	No adverse climatic/stochastic events prevent establishment of newly planted trees