

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/15/019
<b>Project Title</b>	Community Based Conservation Groups at Fiji's Key Conservation Sites
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Fiji
<b>UK Organisation</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	BirdLife International Fiji Programme and University of the South Pacific
<b>Project Leader</b>	James Millett
<b>Report date</b>	30 September 2008
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	3
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/pacific_ibas/fiji/index.html">www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/pacific_ibas/fiji/index.html</a>

## 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).

- 15A Press releases – x2 features in Fiji Times & Fiji Sun on Pacific birds staring at extinction (May 24). x2 features in Fiji Times on former All-black turned conservationist working with BirdLife Fiji, studying community & social issues in outer islands off Taveuni (July 08 & July 12)
- 15C UK Press release – x1 feature in BirdLife website on former All-black turned conservationist working with BirdLife Fiji team (June 28)
- 18A National TV stations contacted – x1 feature on National news following BL Press Conference on Ringold eradication trip & former All-black working with BirdLife Fiji team (July 08)
- 19A National radio contacted at each presentation – multiple features on national radio stations following BL Press Conference on Ringold eradication trip & former All-black working with BL Fiji team (July 08)
- 8 UK staff and consultations visit region for training – Management planning consultant from UK visited Fiji to conduct PA Management Planning Workshop (April 16-18)
- 5 Conservation professionals trained – x3 Fiji staff undertook PA management planning training (April 16-18); x15 other professionals receive PA management planning training (April 16-18); x1 Fiji staff visited the UK BL Secretariat and received hands-on training on IBA monitoring & indicators (August 1-7), same Fiji staff undertook 1½ weeks training in monitoring & communicating biodiversity under the FSC Darwin Scholarship programme (Aug 8-18) and finally a field training in ornithological methods-bird catching, bird ringing & banding at the Elms Farm in Rye (August 19-Sept 7)
- 4C Postgraduates receive training – x2 postgraduate students received PA management planning training (April 16-18)
- 6A Community members receive training – x5 community members from Taveuni received training in bird survey & eradication methods (July 7 – August 1), x2 community members & 14 local school children from Tomaniivi received training in birds & habitat identification (August 28-30)
- 14A Conferences/presentations (inc landowners) – x1 mtng with Roko Tui Cakaudrove & FJ03 Tikina Council Representative (April 28), FJ03 Committee Mtng (April 30), x1 presentation to Cakaudrove Provincial Council Mtng (May 14 & 15), x1 presentation to FJ03 landowners during CYMST workshop (May 22), x1 presentation & mtng with FJ03 SSG advisors in Suva (June 19), x1 presentation & mtng with FJ03 SSG advisors in Suva (July 11), x1 presentation to FJ12 community during IUCN/IAS watershed workshop (July 22-25), x1 presentation to Ringold Island landowners in Suva (July 26)
- 14B Project results disseminated to relevant gatherings – x1 presentation & meeting to Dept of Agriculture, Northern Division (May 2), x1 BirdLife Fiji presentation during UK Field Studies Council training (August 16), x1 presentation to BL World Conference on eradication project (Sept 23), x1 presentation to BL World Conference on site & community conservation (Sept 26)

- 17A – Project Steering Committee meeting (April 23)
- 17B National networking meetings – Participation in Invasive species meeting by Department of Environment & PILN (May 2), participation in National Environment Week meetings & exhibitions in Sigatoka (June 2), participation in nomination of NGO representatives to environmental forums by Dept of Environment (July 16), participation in Forest Certification Standard Consultation (Aug 06), participation in POWPA (proposal) analysis workshop (Aug 27), participation & presentation to Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti's Nadala Action Planning meeting (Sept 11)
- NA Enhancement of other similar networks (SPREP) – Various discussion held with SPREP terrestrial Conservation Officer re the development of a Regional Bird Working Group Action Strategy and meeting in 2009
- 7 Posters and leaflets – 1 leaflet on FJ12 & FJ 13 IBAs produced in Aug 2008
- Training manual – Management Planning Guideline for PAs in Fiji (April 08) & Fundraising handbook launched on Aug 15.
- NA Funding proposals submitted – x1 GEF-SGP proposal on Conservation of Mount Nabukelevu-IBA FJ12 (April 01), x1 Field Studies Council Darwin Scholarship Programme on biodiversity communication & monitoring (April), x1 NC-IUCN proposal on Sago Palm conservation with *Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti* (May 01), x1 proposal to NZAID Pacific Island Countries Participation Fund on BirdLife Fiji staff attendance at World Conference (June), x1 APFED proposal on Enhancing community livelihoods by ecological restoration of islands (June 10), x1 IFAD proposal on Building livelihoods for indigenous culture, for the FJ03 SSG (June 30), x1 SPREP/PILN proposal to visit to New Caledonian BirdLife partner for dissemination of lessons learnt from ISLA course (July 3), x1 POWPA concept paper to UNDP on gap analysis of protected area networks in Fiji (July), x1 DFID proposal on empowering rural communities to sustainably manage their forests (July 31), x1 proposal submitted to Jensen (August), x1 Darwin Initiative concept paper on seabird programme in Fiji & Palau, x1 POWPA full proposal submitted to UNDP (Sept 10)
- 2 x1 MSc student submitted masters degrees (thesis) in July 16

**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.**

Tuvere Tuamotu employed as a trainee at the outset of the project has progressed well, it was therefore decided to re-grade him as a conservation officer and give him split responsibilities with the seabird restoration programme to replace a member of staff who has emigrated after his partner's job was relocated. This has left a vacancy and a position advertised for a new Darwin Trainee and after interviews this was awarded on short term contract to Mere Valu – one of the two sponsored students. Her role is to implement the IBA monitoring methodologies with communities at project sites and to support other activities under the Darwin project.

**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

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** No

**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 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**