

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/15/019
Project Title	Community Based Conservation Groups at Fiji's key conservation sites
Country(ies)	Fiji
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	BirdLife International Fiji Programme and University of the South Pacific
Report date	30 Sept 06
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	

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 – 28 August 06 Fiji Times feature on *Move to Save Pacific Birds* (overview of UK Bird Fair); 31 August 06 Fiji Times article on *Rats make way for Bird Tours* (Eradication Project on FJ IBA 14 Vatu-I-Ra); 11 Sept Fiji Sun 1sst Green Column Issue on BirdLife Projects (1 full page); Sept issue of *Na Mata* on Darwin & Eradication projects (Fijian language quarterly publication)
- 15C UK press releases – September 06 edition Word bird watch Page 3 feature on Fiji Programme Island restoration and IBA book launch at the British High Commission. 3x Articles Published in June issue of *World Birdwatch*, *RSPB Birds* and *Birdwatching* on BirdLife Pacific Programme fundraising event The Birdwatching fair Supporting Saving the Pacific's Parrots.
- 18A National TV coverage – July & August 06 National TV 5 min coverage on restoration project
- 19A national Radio coverage – July & August 06 interview on *Domo ni Vanua* Programme on Radio Fiji 1; Sept 06 Radio Fiji 1 5 min interview on restoration Project;
- 8 UK staff visit region – Technical; advisor returned to Fiji after fundraising visit to the UK and commenced training. Fundraising expert identified and in-country work programme being agreed
- 5 Staff trained: Hands on training undertaken in country on island restoration, Protected area management and survey methods (x4 staff) also Fiji team leader visited UK and received 4 weeks intensive training in ornithological methods – Bird catching and ringing funded by the British Birdwatching Fair.
- 6A 4 staff members from Palau Conservation Society participated in community based island restoration projects (CEPF funded) being implemented by BLI and University of South Pacific from 9 – 23 July
- 4A Postgraduate training – 1 Aug 06 B1442 1 hr introductory lecture at University of the South Pacific x8 postgraduate students
- 6A Community Training – 12 & 13 July 06 x3 community members training on survey site management methods on Vatu-I-Ra; 27-29 Sept training with ~ 30 community members at Nabukelevu, Kadavu
- 14A Conferences Presentations (Inc land owners) – 14 July 06 BirdLife presentation to new Minister & CEO of Environment; 19-21 July 06 presentation at Pacific Invasives Initiative 3rd Partners Meeting ~25 pple; 18-20 August 06 Bird Fair, UK presentation ~150 pple; Sept 27-29 06 Resource Management Workshop for Landowners at Kadavu IBA ~40 pple
- 17A Training themes agreed - Post graduate (MSc) themes agreed with university
- 2 MSc Darwin Scholarships x2 advertised – Interviews scheduled for October
- 17B national network meetings – participation in national meetings to develop large GEF Project PDF-A
- Enhancement of other networks – MOU with the Pacific Invasive Learning network drafted
- Position paper on applicability of UNESCO WHS designation for priority forest sites received
- 7 IBA poster and leaflet produced (Regional natural Heritage Programme funded)
- 20 Computer x1 purchased, Broadband set up significantly enhancing communications and information access

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.

None, the project was set up rapidly with a seamless transfer from two Pre-existing Fiji Programme projects. The only activity that was delayed was the recruitment of a Trainee IBA monitoring Officer due to the UK based training of the Fiji Programme Manager by the Senior Technical Advisor during August and September.

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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**