

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders – it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length – Submission deadline 30 April 2007

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	162/15/019
Project Title	Community Based Conservation Groups at Fiji's Key Conservation Sites
Country(ies)	Fiji
UK Contract Holder Institution	BirdLife International
UK Partner Institution(s)	BirdLife International
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Birdlife International Fiji Programme
Darwin Grant Value	199,601UKP
Start/End dates of Project	1 July 2005 to 30 June 2009
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 Annual Report 1
Project Leader Name	James Millett
Project website	
Author(s), date	Miliana Vukunisiga and James Millett May 27 07

1. Project Background

BirdLife International Fiji Programme works in collaboration with the Pacific Partnership Secretariat in the Fiji Islands. The BirdLife Programme was established in 2002 and funded by a Darwin Initiative Project to identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Fiji as internationally recognised priority sites for biodiversity. Conservation programmes were subsequently developed on four of 14 sites identified as IBAs under an Australian Government funded Regional Natural Heritage Programme (RNHP) project between 2005-06.

The current project ran contiguously from the closure of the RNHP project is currently working on four IBAs:

FJ03 Natewa/Tunuloa Peninsula, Vanua Levu

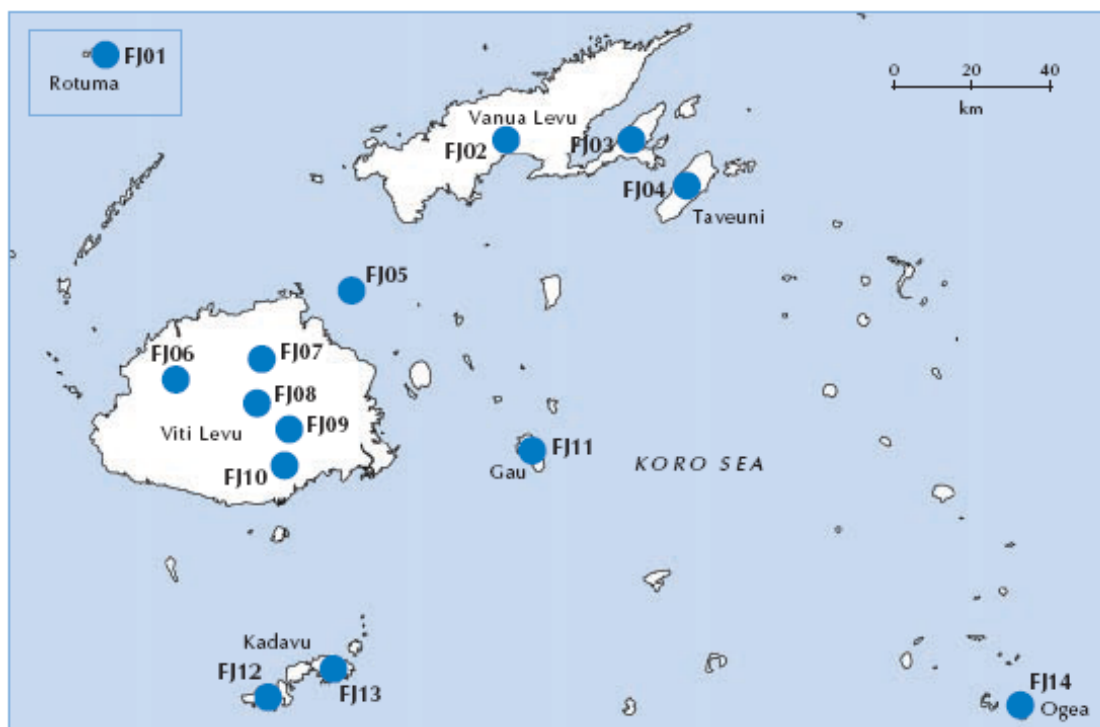
FJ04 Taveuni Highlands,

FJ12 Nabukelevu, Kadavu

FJ13 East Kadavu.

Three nationally protected areas fall within FJ04 IBA; they are the Ravilevu Nature Reserve, Taveuni Forest Reserve and Bouma National Heritage Park and a management plan was drafted for the Forest reserve in 2006. The three other sites do not have any statutory protected areas; however an agreement has been reached between The BirdLife Fiji Programme and five land-owning communities to develop a protected area on the Natewa Peninsular. The key threats to these IBAs are logging, a particular problem on the Natewa peninsular, agricultural encroachment and the impacts of invasive alien species on all sites.

The project is developing the capacity of Fijian staff and other conservation professionals through on-hand training, seminars and workshops and then to disseminate these skills to community members to support the development of protected areas. These conservation professionals will undergo training in areas that are vital for terrestrial conservation, including protected area management, IBA monitoring and fundraising strategies for community related-projects. It is an objective of this project to prioritise consultation with the communities from the four target sites, and this is implemented through meetings, workshops and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRAs). This will guide the development and establishment of Site Support Groups or Community Groups who will work with the landowning groups to develop management plans and monitoring methods for protected areas in the IBAs.



Location of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Fiji

2. Project Partnerships

The Birdlife International Fiji Programme is closely supported by the Birdlife International Cambridge based Secretariat and by staff of the Pacific Partnership Secretariat. Birdlife

International has developed a portfolio of projects for the Pacific Region, implemented by BirdLife Partners in other Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), and by the BirdLife Fiji Programme in Fiji. Currently, five projects are being implemented in Fiji funded by the European Commission (EC), Packard Foundation (2) and the British Birdwatching Fair Project. The capacity of the Fiji team has been significantly developed; staff levels have been increased from two staff in early 2006 to six staff. The Fiji Team is now an effective implementing unit, undertaking a range of activities in priority areas relevant to the Fiji Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan BSAP, including forest conservation, protected area management and alien species management under the project work plans. Staffs of the Fiji Team are receiving ongoing training in order to develop their roles and skill base.

The Pacific Partnership Secretariat team has also built its capacity substantially, enlarging from three staff in early 2006, and now consists of a Director, two project managers, a finance manager and a project administrator, creating an appropriately staffed and managed project management unit. The Cambridge based Secretariat has supported the Fiji programme in fundraising, development of management systems and technical capacity building.

The Fiji Programme has collaborated closely with the University of the South Pacific (USP), over the development of two MSC student projects and is working on inclusion of bird conservation and forest management in a restructured undergraduate programme. Close liaison has been maintained with the Department of Environment, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, and Ministry of land use.

Project partner Institute of Applied Sciences from the University of the South Pacific (IAS) facilitated the formation of a local network support group in the Cakaudrove Province called the *Cakaudrove Yaubula Management Support Team*. This support team performs a similar role to BirdLife's Site Support Group; only the former concentrates wholly on Marine Protected Areas. Since both Taveuni and Natewa/Tunuloa IBAs fall in the Cakaudrove Province, BirdLife has paved the way to strengthen relationships with this support team, in order to further develop the capacity of locals. The same concept is being applied in the two target sites in Kadavu, FJ12 Nabukelevu and FJ13 East Kadavu, with the *Kadavu Yaubula Management Support Team*.

Regionally the partnerships of the Birdlife International Pacific Partnership have been strengthened with four staff of the Palau Conservation Society receiving training in Fiji and the Fiji programme manager and a project assistant participating in training in Pohnpei. A new partnership has been developed with the UK based Wetland Trust, where the Fiji Conservation Manager received four weeks of training.

There have been no significant challenges to partnerships with either the UK based partner, or national partners. A lack of government capacity, particularly in The Department of Environment remains a gap, and further engagement with the Department of Forestry is required to enhance the sustainability of the project outcomes.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Activity 1 UK staff train Fijian Conservation professionals in capacity-building, technical advice, project management and fund-raising skills

Capacity needs were assessed and agreed during the start-up phase of the project. Two staff were recruited to the Fiji team (one funded under the Darwin project), and were selected from over 50 applicants. Of the two staff recruited one had experience in ornithological methodologies the other in community conservation providing a balance of skills. A formal annual appraisal process for all staff was initiated in January, including identifying training and

development requirements. Two students were also recruited and MSc projects designed and approved by the University of the South Pacific centred on the development of IBA monitoring methodology based on indicator species. Further input into the training programme has been given by the project steering committee which met twice during the year and is comprised of stakeholders from USP, National Trust of Fiji, Department of Forestry, Department of Environment (Convention on Biological Diversity CBD Focal Point) and the Birdlife Affiliate in Fiji.

The Fiji Conservation Manager, Vilikesa Masibalavu visited the UK during August and September and showcased Fijian conservation at the British Birdwatching Fair, a fund raising event with Approximately 20,000 attendees. Whilst in the UK Vili, represented the Fiji Programme during a week of annual secretariat work planning meetings and undertook about four weeks of training in ornithological methodologies at the Wetland Trust ringing station on the Sussex coast. The Fiji Conservation Manager and one of the Project Assistants attended two weeks of training in alien species management and island restoration in Pohnpei

On-going technical support is being provided to the project by UK staff and the Project Steering Committee, who have also agreed to meet every six months to discuss project progress. A fundraising workshop which was not able to be conducted during the year, due to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advice, is planned for May 2007, and will be conducted by a UK fundraising expert. The training workshop will target Fijian conservation professionals from Government and Non-Government levels, as well as representatives from local community groups from the four project sites.

Activity 2 Fijian staff train local groups in technical knowledge and monitoring, development & advocacy of management plans, & resource-raising

A rolling programme of community meetings have been established, covering a range of topics related to environmental management and biodiversity including sustainable agriculture, soil conservation, logging, biodiversity value and bird identification.

The conservation committee in FJ03 works together with a similar support team called the Cakaudrove Yaubula Management Support Team (CYMBST), who is supported by partner organization Institute of Applied Science. A similar framework has been established on Kadavu, called the Kadavu Yaubula Management Support Team (KYMST), and BirdLife has provided training to local groups in FJ12 through a series of training workshops, in partnership with the KYMST. A Conservation Group was established on Natewa in 2006, and the agreement was formalised by an MOU with Birdlife International and training and advocacy visits have been undertaken to FJ04 covering bird identification training for forest guides and management plan development.

Activity 3 UK & Fijian staff & local groups develop, agree advocate and implement community natural resource management plans

Needs assessments have been undertaken for all four sites and PRAs on two sites. Communities of FJ04 Taveuni IBA agreed on the development of a management plan for the reserves within the IBA, which was drafted and advocated through Government bodies. Two other sites, FJ03 Natewa/Tunuloa & FJ12 in Kadavu have agreed to implement better management practices in their IBAs: FJ03 have signed a Community Declaration, an agreement by major landowning units for the protection of the forests and a management plan will be developed over the subsequent project year. FJ12 have agreed to cease all agricultural

practices in the forests, and to improve their agricultural land-use with the application of new methods, and a formal management plan will be developed.

Activity 4 UK and Fijian staff and local groups design, train and undertake monitoring programmes

A global monitoring strategy for IBAs has been published and this was used as a basis to develop a draft monitoring programme for Fiji. The plan will be disseminated and reviewed by local stakeholders in early June, after which on-ground training will be conducted for local expertise and community groups. The project staff will embark on pilot studies in July, as the most appropriate time for surveys is in August, where the focus will be collecting baseline data for the IBAs. Two MSc students have been recruited and research projects designed and some community groups have been trained in bird identification.

Activity 5 Awareness and publicity to aid community groups and project model extensions

A high level of publicity has been undertaken related to the project, including press releases and magazine features.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

1. Technical capacity of national conservation institutions built

Good progress has been made on developing the technical capacity of conservation bodies in Fiji, the Fiji Conservation Team has been expanded from two to six individuals including three working and funded by other projects. All team members have developed technical skills and have been able to disseminate skills and knowledge to other conservation bodies and initiatives including Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course (PICCC), USP, KYMST, CYMST, IAS Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Palau Conservation Society (PCS). Key Skills include community engagement, biodiversity surveys including collection, preparation and identification of biological materials, bird survey, bird capture and ringing, IT skills including GIS and remote sensing, fundraising, scientific reporting and project management. The engagement and enthusiasm of Provincial Government staff from key sites has exceeded expectations. Less progress has been made in the development of capacity within Department of Forestry and Department of Environment due to lack of staff, and exacerbated by top level restructuring. The logframe assumption remains valid.

The results in the first 9 months of project implementation compare favourably to the Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI) of number of technical people trained, however a more valuable indicator would refer to deployment of skills and warrants revision.

2. Technical capacity and resources of local conservation groups built at all project sites

A conservation group was established at Natewa and KYMST and CYMST are acting as co-ordinating networks at the other three project sites, all have benefited from a series of engagement meetings, workshops or training sessions, conducted by either BirdLife or In partnership with Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA), IAS and Provincial Government. A total of approximately 50 community members have received training. The community groups and networks are proactive in developing sustainable resource management and protected areas and there has been good progress against the indicator of numbers of individuals trained. Activities for the coming year include Kadavu IBA landowners making decisions on whether they develop site support groups, developing protected areas or continue to operate

through KYMST, on Taveuni. The formal formation of a site support group will require the input of Department of forestry as the competent authority for the Forest Reserve.

3. Improved conservation & natural resource management plans agreed by target communities

PRAs were conducted in FJ03 and FJ04, it was agreed by the two communities to initiate a plan for the sustainable use of resources within their forests. A Management Plan has been drafted for the Forest and Nature reserves within FJ04 the Management Plan is currently being reviewed by the Department of Forestry. A community declaration for protected area status has been agreed by five landowning clans in FJ03. Target communities from the Protected Areas (PAs) in FJ03 have taken this to another level, in promoting the development of PAs to other communities.

Chiefs representing a major portion of landowning units in FJ12 have been positive about declaring protected areas within the IBA, and have agreed to cease agricultural practices in the forests. This has occurred as a result of improved conservation awareness in the communities. Ongoing technical advice and support is being provided to the four target sites, and specialist input will be brought in to assist with the development of protected areas and management planning. The assumption of communities able to develop sustainable management policies remains valid

4. Monitoring framework created and used for indicators of threatened biodiversity

Draft monitoring methodology has been produced and data sources investigated. Data regarding logging concessions issued in Fiji and other land-use data has been identified. MSc students have been recruited and project designs agreed by the University of the South Pacific. A standard method of measuring the density of bird population has been developed identifying the most appropriate and feasible options for Fiji avifauna surveys. The assumption, communities have capacity to monitor IBAs is valid

5. Awareness and publicity

The Fiji Programme has undertaken considerable advocacy over the project period. There have been a total of 12 published articles in the local newspapers. In June 2006, the *Fiji Times* published an article on the launch of *Important Bird Areas in Fiji – Conserving Fiji’s Natural Heritage*. Another two articles were published in the *Fiji Times* in August 2006; *Move to Save Pacific Birds & Rats Make Way for Bird Tours*. A full page article on the Fiji project was published in the first ever Green Page of the *Fiji Sun* in September 2006. Subsequent articles on Fiji Petrel and Saving the Pacific’s Parrots were published in this Green Page on January and February of 2007. This was followed by a press release in the *Fiji Times* on February 5th on the funding for endangered birds.

The *Fiji Times* has a weekly newspaper for young people, called *Kaila!* which has a Culture & Heritage section. The purpose of this section is to educate youth on cultural and environmental issues. The Fiji Programme has established good links with the editors of the paper, and to date published five articles in this section. Initially, the endangered bird species were targeted, Long-legged warbler, Red-throated lorikeet & Pink-billed Parrotfinch. Following this was a fact sheet about the Fiji Petrel and Fiji Parrotfinch. More articles are projected to be published in coming *Kaila!* issues.

3.3 Standard Output Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	TOTAL

Established codes			
15A	Press releases in Fiji at milestones and outputs (x c18)	x12 (as per Annex 3)	
15C	UK Press releases at each major milestone (x c4)	x1 World Birdwatch, x1 RSPB Birds & x1 Birdwatching June 06 Issues & x1 World Birdwatch Sept 06 issue	
18A	National TV stations contacted at each major milestone (x c8)	x2, 5-min coverage on National TV July & August 06	
19A	National radio contacted at each presentation/output (x c12)	x3 <i>Domo ni Vanua</i> Fijian language programme on Radio FJ 1 July & August 06; 15 min interview Radio FJ 1 Sept 06	
8	UK staff and consultants visit region for training (x6)	x1 – Senior Technical Advisor undertakes wide ranging training	
5	Full time <i>Darwin Trainee IBA Monitoring Officer</i> recruited, full time training of two existing staff commences	1 full time Fijian IBA Monitoring Officer recruited and one additional staff. Training of 4 existing Fijian staff	
6A	Exchanges/secondments with similar projects, 5 individuals, minimal total training c9months. Nationalities, Fijian, Palauan, New Caledonian, French Polynesian	x4 PCS staff from Palau visit to Community Based Island Restoration Project in Fiji	
5	20x conservation professional receive training in monitoring/indicators/fundraising/PA management planning – Fijian	X6 FJ staff (hands-on in host country) x1 FJ Conservation Manager visit UK x2 FJ staff (Pohnpei restoration & monitoring)	
4A	30X undergraduates receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising/ PA management planning- Fijian or Pacific		
4C	20 postgraduates receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising / PA management planning Fijian or Pacific	x8 Fijian BI442 lecture USP July x15 Pacific students PICCC lecture USP March	
6A	120 Community members receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising/ PA management planning Fijian	x3 FJ05 July x4 FJ05 August x30 FJ12 Sept x30 FJ12 March x10 FJ04 March (all training days lasted 3-7days)	

14A	Conferences/presentations to all stakeholders (incl. land-owners) x c18	x1 FJ12 Resource Management Wrkshop September 06 x1 FJ13 Conservation Workshop Nov 06 x1 FJ03 Provincial Office Feb 07 x1 FJ03 Committee Mtng Feb 07 x1 FJ12 IBA Wrkshop Mar 07 x1 FJ04 Community Presentation Mar 07	
14B	Project results disseminated to all relevant gatherings x c12	x1 presentation to Minister of Environment & CEO July 06 x1 Pacific Invasive Initiative 3 rd Partners Mtng July 06 x1 BirdFair UK Aug 06 x1 BI UK Mtng Aug 06 x1 Kadavu Provincial Council Mtng Dec 06 x1 Annual Report to Ministry of Environment Jan 07 x1 FSM Eradication Symposium Feb 07 x1 FJ03 District Council Mtng March 07	
17A	Regional experts and institutions invited to contribute to project (PSG) and training syllabus disseminated	Post Graduate (MSc) themes agreed with University Project Steering Committee 2 meetings held	
17B	National networking meetings (annual), regional training (minimum 1 meeting) results circulated	Participation in national meetings to develop large GEF project Fiji conservation manager participated in Birdlife network meeting	
na	Enhancement of other similar networks (SPREP) x c12 Community groups MOA agreed and circulated	MOU with SPREP signed, and drafted with Pacific Invasive Learning Network Position paper on applicability of UNESCO WHS designation for priority sites worked on with SPREP MOA with FJ03 agreed	
7	Posters (x 4) and leaflets (x 4) aimed at communities in relevant themes and targeted to sites	1 poster & 1 leaflet – August 2006	

7	Training manuals: fundraising handbook for professionals and communities (July 07) Management planning handbook (July 08)		
na	Monitoring ornithological methods Mar 09. Fundraising strategies produced for each PA management plan x4 Funding proposals submitted x12 PA (resource management) plans published (x4)		
na	Central support group agreed and formalised (charter/MOAs) & progressively takes over active management		
2	2x Pacific students submit masters degrees on development of monitoring methodologies	2x Fiji students recruited & undergoing MSc at USP	
7	Training hand book on monitoring an ornithological methodologies		
11A/B	New methods and results published as reviewed papers x c3		
20	Computers, office equipment and eqpt estimated at GBP 3, 675	Office fully equipped wt Broadband and staff supplied with laptops	
23	Total amount of co-finance raised for project est. at GBP 163, 317	Exceeded at UKP 405,408.00	
na	Total resources for project follow-ups – aiming for GBP 120, 000		

Table 2 Publications

Type *	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Article	Birds of Fiji face Danger, June 2006	Fiji Times, Suva	http://www.fijitimes.com	FJD \$0.70
Article	Move to Save Pacific Birds, August 2006	Fiji Times, Suva	http://www.fiji.gov.fj	“
Article	Rats Make Way for Bird Tours, August 2006	Fiji Times, Suva	http://www.fijitimes.com	“
Article	Mongoose & humans push Rare Beauties to brink – The Green	Fiji Sun, Suva		“

	Page, September 2006			
Journal	Fiji Joins Rat Race, 2006	Pacific Seabirds Journal		
Article	Hunt for the Elusive Bird – Fiji Petrel, The Green Page, January 2007	Fiji Sun, Suva		“
Article	Funds for Endangered Birds, 5 February 2007	Fiji Times, Suva	http://www.fijitimes.com	“
Article	Race to Save our Glorious Parrots – The Green Page, 12 February 2007	Fiji Sun, Suva		“
Article	<i>Long legged Warbler</i> , Kaila! Culture & Heritage Column, Feb 28 – Mar 6 2007	Fiji Times, Suva		FJD \$0.50
Article	<i>Red throated Lorikeet</i> , Kaila! Culture & Heritage Column, Mar 7 – Mar 13 2007	Fiji Times, Suva		“
Article	<i>Pink billed Parrotfinch</i> , Kaila! Culture & Heritage Column, Mar 14 – Mar 20 2007	Fiji Times, Suva		“
Article	<i>Fiji Petrel</i> , Kaila! Culture & Heritage Column, Mar 28 – Apr 3 2007	Fiji Times, Suva		“

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Progress towards the project purpose *local conservation groups are developed and effectively conserving key terrestrial biodiversity conservation sites in Fiji* has been good. Local conservation groups or networks are active on four priority sites, and are positively engaged and support the principals of resource management. At least for one site, there is a clear and quantifiable benefit for biodiversity: that five communities owning in excess of 2000ha of forest have refused logging agreements as a direct result of Birdlife Fiji Programme advocacy. More over this agreement to protect the forest has been maintained, certainly due to continued engagement. However, the development of a statutory protected area may still contain challenges given the financial incentives available and forestry policy.

The two IBAs on Kadavu, are at a lower risk from logging. Agricultural encroachment being the main threat, and in a short time great progress has been made with the stated desire to develop protected areas and a chiefs ban (tabu) on agricultural incursions, indications are that this will progress within the timeframe of the project. On Taveuni, the land owning community is well engaged however more input and leaderships from DOF and DOE would be beneficial.

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

At the goal level, measurable benefits to biodiversity have already been seen on at least two IBAs, by refusing logging concessions and banning agricultural incursions, with associated benefits for forest product availability, water quality and freshwater fisheries.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Monitoring of project activities and progress towards outputs is managed in a three stage process. The Fiji programme conservation manager chairs weekly staff meeting with the implementing team and progress of activities assigned to staff is discussed. These are then taken forwards to the Project Manager for assessment against the project work plan. These findings on progress and possible changes are taken to the Project Steering Committee who steer decision making. Financial management is monitored by the Regional Financial Manager on a day-to-day basis, and reported quarterly. The monitoring of training undertaken is based on numbers of individuals trained or on quality of training by Birdlife staff reporting on training undertaken or by feed back questionnaires for participants.

A number of key lessons have been learned during the first 9 months of implementation:

- Community advocacy has been highly successful in engaging and informing communities to empower them to consider resource management and examine options for protected areas
- Community engagement and progress towards the community's vision must be sustained otherwise interest may be lost
- A policy level roadmap is required for the development of sustainable protected areas, be they a statutory designation or a community trust arrangement. This will require the engagement of National Government and specialist advice on protected area development
- A legislative review of protected areas is required for statutory designations to be effective
- The current logframe provides some challenges for work-planning and reporting centred around overlapping activities and some blurring of the distinction between outputs and activities. A logframe review and subsequent budget revision will be highly beneficial for the implementation and impact of the project and will be submitted to the Darwin Initiative Secretariat for consideration.

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

Not applicable

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Political instability in Fiji continues to pose challenges, albeit not critical challenges for this project. The travel advice issued by the FCO has resulted in delays in project activities involving visiting expertise. The largest impact has been with the restructuring of the Department of Environment. In the middle of 2006 the Department of Environment was promoted to a Ministry of Environment with a new CEO, however following the coup in December the Ministry was downsized to a department under a ministerial portfolio including Labour and Tourism. Lack of capacity in DOE remains a limitation; however the development of a GEF MSP may provide opportunities to develop governmental capacity.

Options for a central support body for site-based conservation groups will be assessed, and this forms the basis of an exit strategy. A number of options exist including National Trust of Fiji and FLMMA. However, recent activities by a number of Fijian nations have been to develop a locally based NGO with a constitution based on a democratic structure with the purpose of advocating and implementing biodiversity conservation. This provides another opportunity for a sustainable and national body, to in due time continue to support communities in the development and management of protected areas.

7. Sustainability

The project has maintained a high profile in Fiji, particularly through community engagement and educational activities and early evidence is coming from communities through interest and a number of approaches to Birdlife from other communities wanting to reserve their land. Capacity has been measurably enhanced by having an effective conservation team working with other stakeholders and training communities. The exit strategy, to migrate protected area mentoring to a national body or statutory authority, is still under development.

8. Dissemination

Dissemination activities form an integral part of the project, primary effort has been to disseminate information to target communities through a series of awareness visits, workshops and training sessions. Other community audiences have also been targeted including other landowning communities who have been informed on the project through the implementation of community work associated with other projects and through the community magazine *Na Mata*. Wider awareness has also been undertaken including presentations to government, through the University and PACE (PICCC). A series of articles have also been published in the press, including national news papers, young people's journal as well as radio broadcasts. Internationally, the British Birdwatching Fair provided an opportunity to showcase the work of the Fiji programme with the Fiji Conservation manager making presentations and three associated magazine articles, including BirdLife's Magazine *World Birdwatch*, and the RSPB *Birds* magazine with an estimated one million members.

See Table 1 and 2 for full details

9. .

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

I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

Logging has been progressing at an alarming rate on the Natewa peninsular (FJ03) and a Fiji based logging company has been proactively seeking agreements from communities to log. Communities that reached an agreement with BirdLife in 2005 to work towards sustainable management have refused to enter in to logging agreements effectively safeguarding approximately 3015ha of old-growth forest.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2006/07

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2006 - March 2007	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>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>Substantial progress has been made in engaging communities, with declarations to protect forest and reduce agricultural incursions.</p>	<p>Review the logframe and output measures and review the budget</p>
<p>Local conservation groups are developed and effectively conserving key terrestrial biodiversity conservation sites in Fiji</p>	<p>At least 3 out of 4 target sites with new conservation and sustainable development policies</p> <p>At least 3 out of 4 target sites with reduced biodiversity loss over project period</p>	<p>The Local Conservation group (Conservation Committee) at FJ03 Natewa/Tunuloa has been fully developed and is working consistently with landowners and nearby communities to halt unsustainable practices to improve resource management within the IBA. In the IBA FJ04 Taveuni a management plan has been drafted and community members have received training for tour guiding. Good progress has been made towards developing community conservation groups on the two Kadavu sites Fj 12 and 13 by working with KYMST, a primarily marine initiative to develop terrestrial protected areas and capacity to manage forested areas</p>	<p>A fundraising expert has been identified from the UK, and an in-country programme has been agreed to have the Fundraising Workshop from June 2007</p> <p>Training for PA Management is scheduled to take place in Dec 07</p>

<p>Output 1.</p> <p>Technical capacity of national conservation institutions built</p>	<p>Number of technical people trained by project</p>	<p>The Birdlife International Fiji Programme team has been substantially developed with six staff implementing a portfolio of 4 projects. All the new staff are recent graduates with limited experience and have been trained in a range of technical skills, community engagement and project management. With advise from the Birdlife network local stakeholders are developing a locally based conservation NGO, due to be launched in July 07, this is potentially the first national conservation NGO for Fiji</p> <p>The Fiji Conservation Manager visited the UK during August and September 06 and showcased Fijian conservation at the British Birdwatching Fair and then undertook 4 weeks of intensive training in ornithological methods of bird catching and ringing with The Wetland Trust in Sussex during the same period. Community-Based Island Restoration Projects in Fiji were visited by 4 staff members from the Palau Conservation Society from 9 – 23 July 2006. Two local project staff underwent 2 weeks training on island restoration in Pohnpei, Micronesia in February of this year. Two students were recruited to work on projects related to bird-indicator species.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1</p> <p>UK staff train Fijian conservation professionals in capacity-building, technical advice, project management and fund-raising skills</p>		<p>Training needs were discussed and agreed through the project steering committee. Individual training needs have been agreed with project staff and were formalised in a full appraisal process for all Fiji programme staff. A proactive programme of training has been undertaken, including on-the-job training, and participation in courses. Staff have participated in national and international network meetings. Hands on training by the Senior Technical Advisor (STA) is ongoing.</p> <p>In the next year participation in 2 regional meetings is planned, a training visit to the Birdlife partner in Samoa and two visits of British experts. Secondment of government staff to the project to be investigated.</p>
<p>Output 2.</p> <p>Technical capacity and resources of local conservation groups built at all project sites</p>	<p>Number of people in local conservation groups trained by project</p> <p>Resources raised by local</p>	<p>In total about 50 community members have been trained. BirdLife/Institute of Applied Science training workshop in FJ12 Nabukelevu, Kadavu was held in September 2006. This saw a total of 30 community members participating in the 3 day training workshop. A similar workshop was conducted again in FJ12, in March 2007, where broader biodiversity training was conducted with emphasis on soil and genetic conservation. Biodiversity and bird</p>

	conservation groups	<p>identification training was conducted in FJ04 Taveuni for a period of 1 week. Participants included members of the local conservation group from FJ03, and other communities from within Taveuni. Engagement with communities from FJ04 has been ongoing.</p> <p>Planned: participation of community members in fundraising and protected area training and further awareness and training</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.</p> <p>Fijian staff train local groups in technical knowledge and monitoring, development and advocacy of management plans, and resource-raising</p>	<p>Fijian staff train local groups in technical knowledge and monitoring, development and advocacy of management plans, and resource-raising</p>	<p>Local stakeholder meetings were carried out regularly in all four project sites including training workshops and sessions x3 FJ05 July 4 persons FJ05 August, 30 persons FJ12 Sept, 30 persons FJ12 March and 10 persons FJ04 March. Additional awareness visits have also been made, Local conservation groups are established at Fj03.</p>
<p>Output 3.</p> <p>Improved conservation & natural resource management plans agreed by target communities</p>	<p>At least 3 out of 4 communities agree improved conservation & sustainable development plans</p>	<p>Following PRAs conducted in FJ03 and FJ04, it was agreed by the two communities to initiate a plan for the sustainable use of resources within their forests. A Management Plan has been drafted for FJ04 and a Community Declaration for Protected Area status has been agreed by some landowning clans in FJ03. The Management Plan is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Forests. Target communities from the PAs in FJ03 have taken this to another level, in promoting the development of PAs to other communities. Chiefs representing a major portion of landowning units in FJ12 have been positive about declaring protected areas within the IBA, and have agreed to cease agricultural practices in the forests. This has surfaced as a result of improved conservation awareness in the communities. Ongoing technical advice and support is being provided to the four target sites.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1</p> <p>UK and Fijian staff and local groups develop, agree advocate and implement community</p>		<p>The Management Plan developed for FJ04 Taveuni, encompasses the two reserves, and was developed only after consultation and agreement with the landowners. An expert in Protected Area Management from the UK is expected to come to Fiji later in the year to conduct a workshop. The workshop will aim to improve the management of natural resources through the implementation of management plans. It will target Fijian staff and</p>

natural resource management plans		local conservation groups, as well as community representatives from our Conservation Committee and support groups.
Output 4. Monitoring framework created and used for indicators of threatened biodiversity	Monitoring framework developed by end of Year I At least 3 out of 4 local conservation groups undertaking monitoring	The Global IBA monitoring strategy has been released and a draft Fiji monitoring strategy produced. Two students have started MSc projects related to the identification of suitable indicator species to assess forest quality. Community groups have received training in bird identification
Activity 4.1 UK and Fijian staff and local groups design, train and undertake monitoring programmes		Draft monitoring strategy produced and data sources investigated. Data regarding logging concessions issued in Fiji has being accessed and is being assessed. MSc students are working on projects agreed by the University of the South Pacific and implementation is ongoing. A standard method of measuring the density of bird population has been developed identifying the most appropriate and feasible options for Fiji avifauna surveys.
Output 5. Awareness and Publicity	Number of published articles	The Fiji Programme has received great advocacy over the project period. There have been a total of 12 published articles in the local newspapers. In June 2006, the Fiji Times published an article on the launch of BirdLife Fiji's first book, Important Bird Areas in Fiji – Conserving Fiji's natural heritage. Another 2 articles were published in the Fiji Times in August 2006; Move to Save Pacific Birds & Rats Make Way for Bird Tours. A full page article on the Fiji project was published in the first ever Green Page of the Fiji Sun in September 2006. Following on, articles on Fiji Petrel and Saving the Pacific's Parrots were published in this Green Page on January and February of 2007. This was followed by a press release in the Fiji Times on February 5th on the funding for endangered birds. The Fiji Times has a weekly newspaper for young people, called Kaila! which has a Culture & Heritage section. The purpose of this section is to educate the readers, in particular the younger generation of Fiji's population, on what makes Fiji special – one of which is the

		<p>birdlife in Fiji. The Fiji Programme has established good links with the editors of the paper, and has so far had 5 articles published in this section. Initially, the endangered bird species were targeted, Long-legged warbler, Red-throated lorikeet & Pink-billed Parrotfinch. Following this was a fact sheet about the Fiji Petrel and Fiji Parrotfinch. More articles are projected to be published in coming Kaila! issues.</p>
<p>Activity 5.1 Awareness and publicity to aid community groups, and project model extension</p>		<p>The development of a Conservation Committee in FJ03 Natewa/Tunuloa has been recognized as a positive move towards extending protected areas. This was reiterated at the District (Tikina) Meeting that was held recently in the area. District meetings are a forum where relevant issues pertaining to the particular area are discussed. It is attended by delegates from the Provincial level as well as Government Departments, and in particular chiefly representatives from each village. In working with communities and landowning clans in Fiji, it is imperative that awareness and publicity to the highest level of village administration be made priority.</p> <p>The BirdLife Fiji Programme have been invited on several occasions to present at the two respective Provincial Council Meetings – within which all four of our project sites occur; the Cakaudrove Provincial Council (FJ03 & FJ04) and Kadavu Provincial Council (FJ12 & FJ13). This confirms interest in the projects from the Provincial level, and is great advocacy for the project. Given the relationship the team has already established with the local administration councils, there are certain to be more awareness presentations during the next project year. Advocacy materials were produced in the form of leaflets and posters, raising more awareness for the project. These leaflets explained generally the fourteen IBAs and the project work programme. However, new leaflets have been drafted for the three specific IBAs, Natewa/Tunuloa (FJ03), Taveuni (FJ04) and Kadavu (FJ12 & FJ13).</p>

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: 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</p> <p>the conservation of biological diversity</p> <p>the sustainable use of its components, and</p> <p>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.</p>			
<p>Purpose</p> <p><i>Local conservation groups are developed and effectively conserving key terrestrial biodiversity conservation sites in Fiji</i></p>	<p>At least 3 out of 4 target sites with new conservation and sustainable development policies</p> <p>At least 3 out of 4 target sites with reduced biodiversity loss over project period</p>	<p>Community-declared policies</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p>	<p>Community reps truly represent community views</p> <p>Conservation and sustainable development is economically viable</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Technical capacity of national conservation institutions built</p> <p>2. Technical capacity and resources of local conservation groups built at all project sites</p> <p>3. Improved conservation & natural resource management plans agreed by target</p>	<p>Number of technical people trained by project (1)</p> <p>Number of people in local conservation groups trained by project (2.1)</p> <p>Resources raised by local conservation groups (2.2)</p> <p>At least 3 out of 4 communities agree improved</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Regional meeting reports (1,4.1)</p> <p>Community visit reports (2.1)</p> <p>Project and community-based conservation support group accounts (2.2)</p>	<p><i>Sufficient government and NGO capacity for full collaboration</i></p> <p><i>Donors continue to resource community activities at PAs</i></p> <p><i>Communities able to develop sustainable management</i></p>

<p>communities</p> <p>4. Monitoring framework created and used for indicators of threatened biodiversity</p> <p>5. Awareness and publicity</p>	<p>conservation & sustainable development plans (3)</p> <p>Monitoring framework developed by end of Year 1 (4.1)</p> <p>At least 3 out of 4 local conservation groups undertaking monitoring (4.2)</p> <p>Number of published articles (5)</p>	<p>Model monitoring framework (4.1)</p> <p>Monitoring reports (4.2)</p> <p>Copies of publications (5)</p>	<p><i>policies</i></p> <p>Communities have the capacity to monitor IBAs/PAs</p>
--	--	---	---

Activities	Activity milestones (summary of project implementation timetable)
<p>1. UK staff train Fijian conservation professionals in capacity-building, technical advice, project management and fund-raising skills</p> <p>2. Fijian staff train local groups in technical knowledge and monitoring, development and advocacy of management plans, and resource-raising</p> <p>3. UK and Fijian staff and local groups develop, agree, advocate and implement community natural resource management plans</p> <p>4. UK and Fijian staff and local groups design, train and undertake monitoring programmes</p> <p>5. Awareness and publicity to aid community groups, and project model extension</p>	<p>1. Training needs agreed with staff and collaborating institutions (months 1-3); hands-on training by UK staff (ongoing); national/regional training / networking meetings (annual); exchanges with similar projects (total 4); fund-raising training manual produced (month 12); PA management plan training manual produced (month 24); funding proposals submitted (months 24-36)</p> <p>2. Local stakeholder meetings at all project sites (months 2-12); local conservation groups established at enthusiastic communities (months 3-18); community needs assessment (months 3-18); technical advice, training, resources and other support mobilised for community groups (ongoing); rolling community meetings supported (months 4-30); <u>broad biodiversity value training (4 –18) Targeted training (6-34)</u> community groups helped to raise resources for activities (months 6-34); <u>Assessment of central support group options (months 12-24). Agreement reached on central support group structure and function central group progressively takes over active support role (month 24-36)</u></p> <p>3. PRA / PLA assessments and visioning with all interested communities (months 2-12); draft resource management plans agreed (months 3-18); technical support for resource management (ongoing); resource management plans revised and agreed (months 6-30); management plans implemented (months 6-36).</p> <p>4. Information collated (month 1-3); technical workshop to agree potential best indicators/ training need (months 3-6); staff training (months 6-24); establish MSc students on methodology development (6-30); training of community groups (months 12-24); analysis and redesign of methods (months 25-30); conclusions agreed and disseminated at workshop (month 30); manual/ monitoring/ornithological methods hand book published (30 – 36).</p> <p>5. National publicity when each local conservation group created, when management plans agreed, and at major steps in implementing management plans (ongoing); dialogue with potential new local groups (months 18-36); manuals and other best practice tools discussed, published and disseminated (months 30-36).</p>

Annex 3 onwards – supplementary material (optional)

Couriered separately

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table?	
Do not include claim forms or communications for Defra with this report.	