



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-001
Project Title	Developing a conservation management plan for Samoa's little dodo – the manumea or toothbilled pigeon
Country(ies)	Samoa, Australia
Lead Organisation	ANU
Collaborator(s)	SCS and MNRE
Project Leader	<i>Rebecca Stirnemann</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	<i>1/5/14-Sept 2014</i>
Project website	<i>www.samoanbirds.com</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

The Manumea project is now in progress.

Output one- Manumea surveys are currently being undertaken and vegetation mapped to establish key sites for further research and conservation action. Two sites have been identified on each of the two islands (Savaii and Upulo) as being of high priority. One site is village land and the other is a combination of village and government watch catchment. Four additional sites have been identified for further monitoring to establish their importance for the species. Additional information on the species is sought to build a better understanding of the species. One mechanism to do this is by contacting museums with ornithology collections. To this end museums around the world are being emailed to determine if they hold Manumea skins. Skins are measured insitu and the information on the data labels collated. Already this has added to our knowledge of the timing of the breeding biology of the species. We are also currently trialling the use of automatic sound recorders to monitor presence and absence of Manumea. Calls are also collected from the other native pigeon species the Lupe or Pacific pigeon and the white-throated pigeon to build a reference collection to compare with Manumea.

We are also assessing which techniques to be use to capture and radio-track Manumea. The transmitter types to be used for radio tracking have been identified as Sirtrack, NZ, GPS transmitters and are currently being built. Techniques for attaching them to the birds are currently under review. Tail mounts; harnesses and glue attachments are all being considered.

Output two – Expert advice is being sought for the development of the pest control invasive plan. We are forming an invasive specialist group to help with this. This group will determine the optimal way to design and undertake invasive pest control of both cats and rats to benefit the target species. Members of the German zoological society, PII and SPREP have all been approached to join the group.

Output three- We have formed a partnership with the Samoan government to undertake the village consultations and design an effective educational outreach program. Techniques to spread the key messages are being determined in collaboration with expert communications in SPREP and Auckland Zoo education experts.

Output four- The capacity of the NGO has been enhanced by establishing an office building in

Apia. Communications for the NGO have also been developed and include a new website. The project will be launched at the end of October.

The project is thus on track and progressing nicely.

2a. 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.

No problems have arisen.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. 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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**