Darwin Initiative Main & Extra: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	29-005
Project title	Safeguarding Rennell Island Livelihoods and Biodiversity from Invasive Species
Country(ies)	Fiji & Solomon Islands
Lead Organisation	BirdLife International
Project partner(s)	Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association
Darwin Initiative grant value	£415, 193.00
Start/end dates of project	01/06/2022 – 31/03/2025
Project Leader name	Steve Cranwell
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Miliana Ravuso, Steve Cranwell – BirdLife International George Tauika – Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association 30 June 2025

1 Project Summary

East Rennell, located on the southernmost island of the Solomon Islands, is the country's only UNESCO World Heritage Site (ERWHS), inscribed in 1998 for its ecological and cultural significance. Covering 30% of Rennell Island, it is home to Lake Tegano—the largest brackish lake in the insular Pacific—and a diverse range of endemic species, including 13 birds, 7 land snails, and 1 bat. It is also notable for being the first natural World Heritage Site under customary ownership and management.

Since 2013, ERWHS has been listed as a World Heritage Site in Danger due to escalating threats to its biodiversity and the wellbeing of its 800 indigenous landowners. Key threats include the absence of formal Protected Area status, limited livelihood opportunities, and the spread of invasive alien species (IAS)—particularly the Black rat (*Rattus rattus*)—exacerbated by logging and mining activities in neighbouring West Rennell. These pressures undermine food security, ecosystem health, and traditional lifestyles in the four ERWHS villages: Tevaitahe, Niupani, Tegano, and Hutuna.

A 2018 feasibility study by BirdLife International (BLI) confirmed the pervasive impact of Black rats on native fauna and local agriculture, highlighting the need for targeted biosecurity action. Building on these findings, this project aimed to reduce biodiversity loss and strengthen community resilience by piloting rodent suppression in four 1km² forest treatment plots—one in each ERWHS village. Monitoring focused on six endemic bird species (Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove) and land snails, serving as biodiversity indicators linked to the Site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

In tandem, the project assessed the impact of Black rats on five priority crops (kumara, taro, yams, papaya, and coconuts), directly addressing local concerns around food security.

It also introduced women-led savings clubs to support household financial resilience—an approach successful in other provinces but new to Rennell.

The project integrated ecological monitoring with human wellbeing outcomes, using community-based methods throughout. It strengthened local capacity for IAS management and contributed new data to inform scalable conservation and biosecurity strategies for Rennell and nearby Bellona Island.

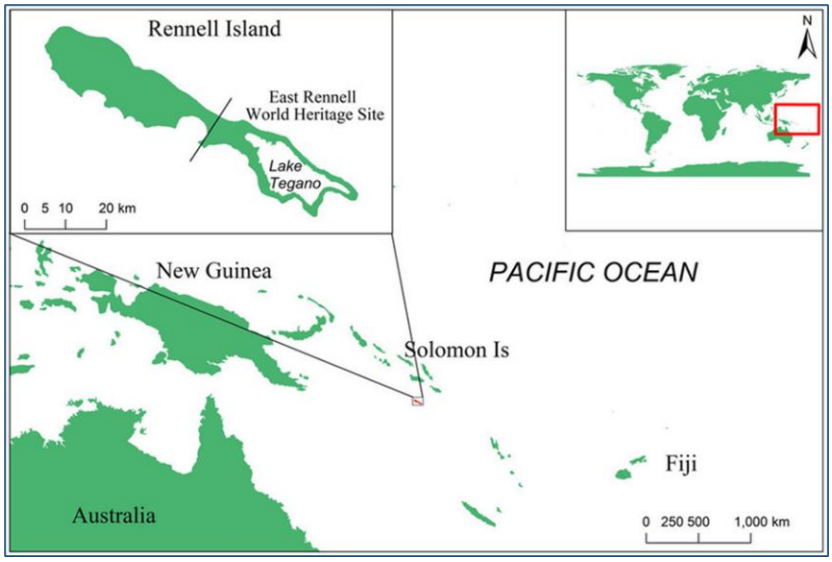


Figure 1. *Location of the Solomon Islands Group and Rennell Island within that group. ERWHS covers nearly the entire southern half of the island, around one third of the island by land area.*

Map Source: *Monitoring vegetation dynamics in East Rennell Island World Heritage Site using multi-sensor and multi-temporal remote sensing data* - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate.

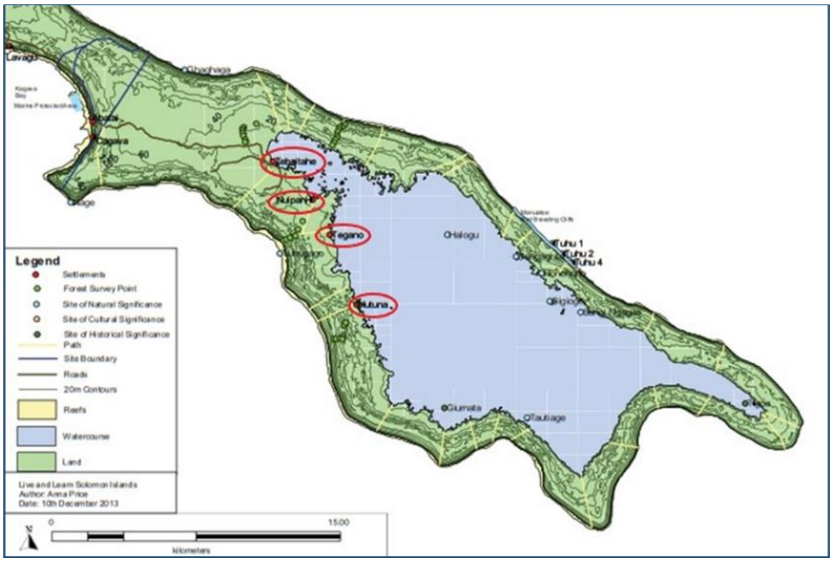


Figure 2. *Map of sites of natural and historical significance in ERWHS, including location of 4 villages*

Map Source: *Draft Management Plan East Rennell, 2014*.

2 Project Partnerships

This project was underpinned by strong, multi-level partnerships responding directly to locally identified needs. The foundation was laid in 2017, when the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) committed at the Pacific Islands Nature Conference to lead efforts to remove East Rennell from UNESCO's World Heritage In Danger list. This marked the start of a core partnership between BirdLife International (BLI) and the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA)—the state-mandated local body responsible for managing the ERWHS.

LTWHSA played a central role in implementation, including rodent control, community engagement, and local logistics. Despite resource constraints and geographical isolation, it provided strong on-the-ground leadership. The LTWHSA Chairman also served as the Darwin Local Project Coordinator, working closely with community-elected Local Rangers, consultants, and BLI staff to ensure smooth operations. Engagement with the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) strengthened over the course of the project. Senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), notably Mr. Trevor Maeda and Ms. Nelly Kere, contributed through regular communications, site visits, and review of project documents.

The project also collaborated with MECDM's Climate Change Division to undertake an Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) for East Rennell. Although not directly contracted under this project, consultant Mr. Jimmy Kereseka facilitated Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) sessions alongside the Division, helping to align activities with national adaptation priorities. A productive partnership was established with the GEF-6 funded Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA) project, led by MECDM. Regular coordination between EREPA's National Coordinator and the BLI Project Manager enabled shared activities, including a peer exchange visit between tribal leaders from Renbel and Choiseul in November 2023. BLI's Environmental Monitoring Plan was also shared with EREPA, informing the biodiversity indicators now incorporated in the revised ERWHS Management Plan. Biosecurity partnerships were equally critical. Close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Biosecurity (MALB), under the leadership of then-Director Mr. Francis Tsatsia, led to the appointment of Mr. Patteson Akipu as the local Biosecurity Consultant. This helped advance the development of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan—the first of its kind in Solomon Islands. The work continued under current Director Ms. Jean Eroa, maintaining momentum for long-term biosecurity improvements. The project also worked closely with Live & Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI), which is implementing a carbon project in East Rennell. LLSI's Project Manager, Mr. Bill Apusae, co-facilitated the LTWHSA Strategic Planning Workshop in local pidgin to ensure cultural relevance. Coordination between LLSI and BLI leadership ensured consistent messaging and complementary community engagement efforts.

Local communities were engaged throughout via participatory methods. Community-based Rangers, technical experts, and consultants were active in data collection, workshops, and joint decision-making. All project partners contributed to planning and were consulted during this Final Report process. While not all drafted content directly, inputs from LTWHSA, MECDM, EREPA and LLSI informed key findings, priorities, and the exit strategy. Challenges—such as communication delays, competing government commitments, and logistical barriers due to East Rennell's remoteness—were addressed through strong local leadership and frequent one-on-one engagement, including by zoom, skype & email communications. Notably, joint partner updates contributed to Solomon Islands' 2023 and 2024 submissions to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, including the most recent Solomon Island Government State of Conservation (SOC) Report attached as Annex 5.1, and is referenced throughout this report.

3 Project Achievements

All five Project Outputs have been achieved, despite challenges in adhering to the timelines set out in the Project Logframe. Challenges were largely addressed through adaptive management and community-led decision-making, with changes documented and supported through formal processes (e.g. Change Requests).

3.1 Outputs

Output 1: At project inception, there was no existing rodent control program in place at the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS), and communities lacked the tools, knowledge, and capacity to undertake systematic monitoring or mitigation of invasive rodent impacts. By project end, the community-based rodent control system was successfully established and fully operational across the four ERWHS villages, with communities engaged, participating in the suppression program demonstrating community level of understanding had increased. Data collected, although not to the level anticipated, provided good quantifiable evidence on the impacts of rodent suppression in the 4 ERWHS villages.

Indicator 1.1 Achieved by the end of Y1. At the community project inception consultations in each of the 4 ERWHS villages in September 2022, community members agreed to the recruitment of LTWHSA Chairman, Mr George Tauika as the Local Project Coordinator (LPC) and nominated four LTWHSA Local Rangers -all male, one from each village, to work with the LPC. Following presentations & discussions by LPC & BLI of the rodent control program

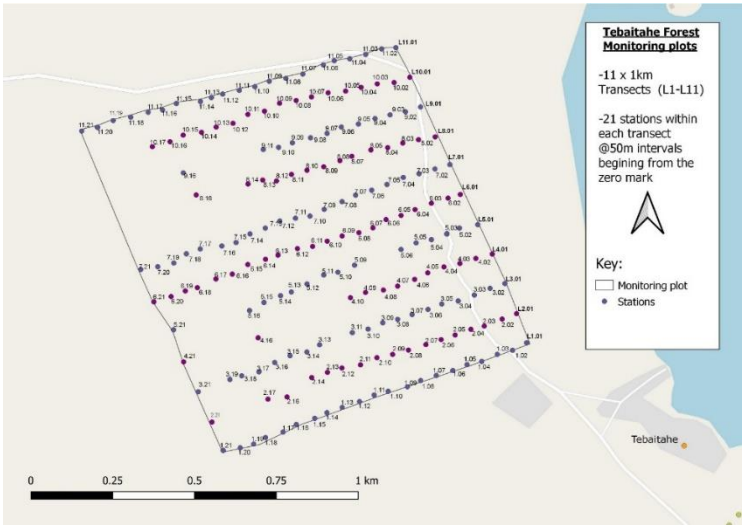
(illustrated as a diagram), communities fully understood the objectives of the project and agreed on the treatment & non-treatment sites.

Figure 3. *Community inception workshop*

Between June & September 2022, BLI engaged Project Consultant and biodiversity monitoring expert Dr. Ray Pierce to develop the biodiversity (bird) monitoring. Over the same period Steve Cranwell (BirdLife Int) developed the Rodent Suppression Operational Plan (Annex 5.2), outlining the setup of the 1km² rodent treatment and associated non-treatment (control) plots to be established at each of the 4 ERWHS villages. The plan was presented by the BLI team to the 4 ERWHS communities in November 2022, followed by training with the LPC & 4 Local Rangers on the use of GPS and setting up of treatment plots.

Indicator 1.2 Rangers set up the 1km² plots – treatment and non-treatment areas in each of their village forest areas, and the maps were presented back to the communities.

Figure 4. *Map of 1km² treatment plot in Tevaitahe. Similar maps (created from GPS data) were done for all 4 sites, before the actual setup.*



Baseline (pre-baiting) data was collected by Local Rangers (March-April 23) on endemic snails, indicator birds (Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail & Bronze Ground-dove), and indicator agricultural crops (kumara, taro, yams, papaya & coconut) across the 4 treatment and non-treatment areas. This fieldwork included practical training by BLI Project Lead Steve Cranwell & Dr. Ray Pierce, for the local rangers and the LPC in rodent control implementation, specifically baiting, monitoring techniques, data collection, and reporting. The ERWHS Forest Bird Monitoring & Snail Search Protocol and the Crop Monitoring Protocols (Annex 5.3) produced by Dr. Ray Pierce were the guiding manuals used for the training and subsequent implementation. Establishment of the four 1km² suppression networks was completed between May and July 2023, with monitoring commencing soon after (August 2023). Local Consultant Ms. Christina Nasiu conducted a basic socioeconomic assessment and handicraft survey in August 2023 to collate baselines for crop yields, socioeconomic & wellbeing indicators within the ERWHS communities (Annex 5.4). At the time of the socioeconomic survey, village populations were very low, as many residents had temporarily relocated to Honiara, with some beginning to seek employment opportunities related to the Pacific Games. As a result, a low number of individuals were interviewed; however, the responses obtained were broadly representative of all communities. A key insight from this assessment was the concept of 'wellbeing' within these communities is not closely associated with income—whether from handicrafts or other livelihood sources.

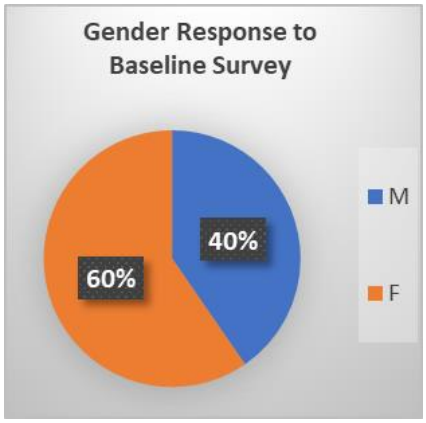


Figure 5. *Gender-aggregated percentage of responses to baseline survey on crop yields, socioeconomic & wellbeing assessments.*

Indicator 1.3 Local Rangers submitted their first set of monitoring data—based on the key biodiversity indicators in August 2023, with data on indicator agricultural crops in September 2023. Data collection and reporting although slow, continued until February 2025 in accordance with the established monitoring protocol. By EOP, 8 trained Local Rangers (all male) had not only continued leading the monitoring activities but also transferred their skills to others in the community—contributing to the training of over 300 ERWHS village members (target minimum 40), including 120 women. This demonstrates both their technical capacity and their ability to support and sustain community-wide engagement in rodent control, crop, and biodiversity monitoring. However, this capacity was not without limitations. Inconsistent implementation reduced the effectiveness of baiting and limited the ability of monitoring to demonstrate impacts on birds and crops. While the LPC and Rangers worked to maintain standards, social and cultural dynamics, along with individual behaviours, made it difficult to sustain consistent quality.

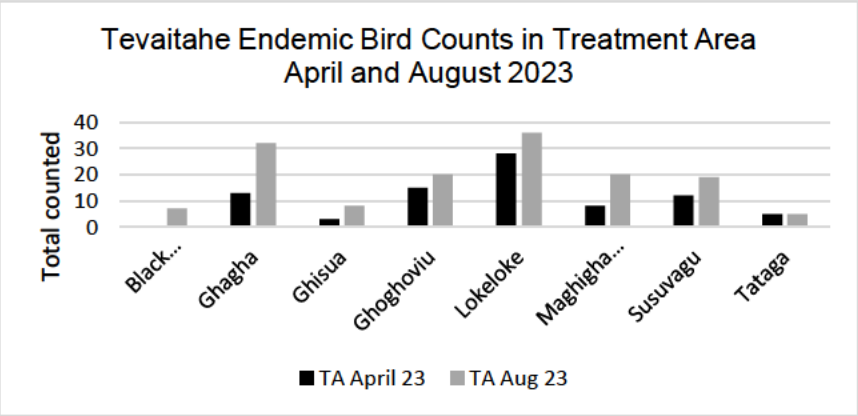


Figure 6. *Quarterly data analysis on indicator bird species, after monitoring data is received from Rangers*

Indicator 1.4

Post-baiting monitoring phase has yielded strong indications of a reduction in rodent activity in the treatment areas, with biodiversity data, including video footage demonstrating rat predation is limiting some of Rennells endemic bird species and are likely driving population declines. The 5-minute point counts demonstrated an increase in the (average) number of birds detected between the treatment and non-treatment areas for all six of the endemic species and consistently across all four treatment sites, for the Bare-eyed White-eye (Ghagha), Singing Parrot (Ghisua), Rennell Shrikebill (Ghoghoviu), Rennell Gerygone (Lokeloke), Rennell Fantail (Magighape), and Rennell White-eye (Susuvagu).

Endemic birds	Tev. TA	Tev. NTA	Tev. % diff.	Niu. TA	Niu. NTA	Niu.% diff.	Teg. TA	Teg. NTA	Teg.% diff.	Hut. TA	Hut. NTA	Hut.% diff.
Ghapilu	37.0	29.3	**23.1**	14.0	6.0	**80.0**	65.0	8.0	**156.2**	3.0	2.0	**40.0**
Ghagha	162.3	119.7	**30.3**	110.0	39.0	**95.3**	172.0	73.0	**80.8**	101.0	81.0	**22.0**
Ghisua	53.0	34.7	**41.8**	48.0	22.0	**74.3**	28.0	15.0	**60.5**	36.0	25.3	**34.8**
Ghoghoviu	81.7	51.8	**44.7**	26.0	10.0	**88.9**	76.0	30.0	**86.8**	58.0	51.0	**12.8**
Lokeloke	166.7	104.7	**45.7**	71.0	39.0	**58.2**	193.0	103.0	**60.8**	106.0	87.3	**19.3**
Maghighape	66.0	60.7	**8.4**	30.0	9.0	**107.7**	55.0	24.0	**78.5**	52.0	37.0	**33.7**
Susuvagu	83.7	70.0	**17.8**	20.0	2.0	**163.6**	60.0	19.0	**103.8**	37.0	18.0	**69.1**
Tataga	17.5	18.0	-2.8	27.0	7.0	**117.6**	37.0	7.0	**136.4**	48.0	19.3	**85.1**

Table 1 *Average number of endemic birds detected and percentage difference between treatment (TA) and non-treatment (NTA) sites at the four village forest areas (Tevaitahe, Niupani, Tegano, Hutuna), over the period of rat suppression (2023-2025).*

Results including pictures and footage from trail cameras have been shared with ERWHS communities during village and church meetings, raising awareness of the ecological and social value of the WHS and impacts of invasive species. Children have shown a keen interest in images & footage. On discussions with the UNESCO National Commission at the Ministry of Education, Human Resources Development (MEHRD), Ms. Sophie Liligeto, a Rennell bird pocket guide was agreed to be the most useful environmental education material, supporting environmental learning and stewardship among children.

Indicator 1.5 The development of a biodiversity and environmental educational material for Rennell (informed by local action) will serve as a resource directly relevant to the needs of local students and educators. A first for the island, the Rennell Bird Pocket Guide has been produced and endorsed by the Ministry of Education, and Human Resources Development (Annex 5.5).

Indicator 1.6 Results from the rodent control program confirmed the significant threat Black rats pose to key endemic species, including birds and snails, as well as to crop production. The use of biodiversity indicators as outlined in the ERWHS Forest Bird Monitoring, Snail Search Protocol and the Crop Monitoring Protocols (Annex 5.3) is being integrated into the draft ERWHS Management Plan (through the EREPA project). This ensures long-term alignment of conservation action with ecological outcomes. Results from the community-based monitoring of indicator species and agricultural crops have been shared across various national forums and to the ERWHS communities, and the response has been positive. One response was from a woman engaged in collecting monitoring data:

"When I walk into the forest, I realise there are a lot of birds in the forest, and naming birds especially the endemic birds is something I learnt in this project. The video footage from trail cameras showing young chicks in their nests in the forest is amazing. I have never seen this before. Before, I heard the sound of birds, but I don't bother to know them. This time I can recognize them. Secondly, I come to realise that when I collect data, I see how rats have really destroyed our coconuts and garden crops".

Output 2: The BLI-led feasibility study in 2018 reported the lack of any control and/or biosecurity process in place for Rennell Island, even after the arrival of Black rats (*Rattus rattus*), hence increasing the risk of incursions of new invasive species. Unfortunately, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) has since established across the province and the Giant African Snail (*Achatina fulica*) has been introduced to West Rennell (baseline). Delay in appointment for the local biosecurity coordinator (consultant) led to setbacks in implementing this Output, therefore most Indicators were achieved outside the original/intended timeframe.

Indicator 2.1 Discussions with the (then) Director of the SI Biosecurity Division, Francis Tsatsia was encouraging with the Director acknowledging the lack of technical resources & capability within the Division to extend biosecurity plans across all Provinces. At the Project Inception Workshop in Honiara (August 2022), the list of stakeholders to be engaged in the biosecurity planning process was identified and agreed amongst representatives from Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI), the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority and the Deputy Premier of Renbel Province. These are the contributors of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan.

Figure 7. *Unscreened cargo loaded onto a vessel at the Honiara port — a key biosecurity risk pathway for the spread of invasive species.*

Indicator 2.2 While discussions were productive, the recruitment of a local Biosecurity Consultant proved to be a lengthy process. In 2023, the Biosecurity Division was engaged in the planning and execution of the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, with the Director leading several national taskforces thus placing a strain on time and resource availability.

Eventually, in February 2024, Mr Patteson Akipu was formally appointed as the Local Biosecurity Coordinator/Consultant based at the BSI Office. The delayed appointment shortened the timeline for this output, resulting in only 2 biosecurity planning workshops being held instead of the 6 initially in the logframe. Nevertheless, the 2 multi-stakeholder workshops were carefully planned to ensure inclusive participation, and to define the scope of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan. The Honiara Workshop (March 2024) captured all stakeholder priorities and gaps for inter and intra biosecurity controls (Annex 5.6). The Renbel Workshop (November 2024) at Tigoa Government Station on Rennell further reinforced domestic biosecurity priorities, with all high-risk IAS pathways identified for both Rennell and Bellona islands. Identification of established and potential invasive species threats, the lack of awareness/urgency, enforcement and provision of communication materials were some of the key capacity needs identified for the Province.

Indicator 2.3 Initial drafts of the Rennell and Bellona Biosecurity Plan was drafted soon after the 2nd workshop (Nov 2024) by IAS & biosecurity consultant, Ms. Souad Boudjelas. The Plan was circulated for comments and review between Jan-March 2025, before a comprehensive Renbel Biosecurity Plan was produced in May 2025. The Plan has received formal endorsement from the Premier of the Rennell Bellona Provincial Government Mr Derek Pongi (Annex 5.7).

Indicator 2.4 Thirty (30) representatives from government agencies (MALB, BSI), SI Ports Authority, Solomon Airlines and private corporations from Kokonut Pacific & SI Biosecurity Development Programme, all 6 Wards/Districts (from Rennell), the Renbel Provincial Government, community members and 2 mining companies contributed to the biosecurity consultations and agreed on some strong resolutions for the BSI and the Renbel Provincial Government. There was no representation from Bellona due to logistical reasons (no space on airplanes & no boats travelling), however the Renbel Provincial Government reps agreed to provide feedback to Bellona Ward representatives. Guidelines on identifying and reporting the Giant African Snail (GAS), the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB), the Yellow Crazy Ant (YCA) and the Little Fire Ant (Annex 5.8) have been shared with these representatives, and to the 100+ people that reside at the Tigoa Government Station. Communities on Rennell are familiar with identifying Black rats and their associated impacts, thus these guidelines will increase their knowledge on other priority invasive species, and the biosecurity training has provided capacity to manage and response accordingly. BLI will work with BSI to seek extra resourcing support for implementing the Plan. BSI has also agreed to train Agricultural Extension Officers and Ward Development Committee reps on biosecurity protocols, using the Plan as a guide.

Indicator 2.5 This indicator was not fully achieved by EOP, due to delays in recruitment of Local Biosecurity Coordinator (February 2024). Consequently, key activities – including stakeholder workshops and training – were postponed, with the second and final workshop held in November 2024. Although no new IAS incursions were reported or recorded by project end, mechanisms are now in place, through the Renbel Biosecurity Plan and strengthened stakeholder capacity, for ongoing monitoring and response. Biosecurity Solomon Islands will continue to monitor and record any new sightings or incursions beyond the project period.

Output 3: A key constraint to meeting the timelines for each Indicator was the limited engagement time available from the local consultant, due to competing priorities. Local consultant Ms. Christina Nasiu originally from West Rennell, residing in Tigoa, provides voluntary support towards the governance and administrative functions of the Provincial Secretary and Premier's Office. This was resolved by the BLI Project Manager, Ms. Miliana Ravuso leading on some training programs.

Indicator 3.1 Following a Capacity Needs Assessment for the LTWHSA Committee, by local consultant Christina Nasiu (August 2023), a tailored LTWHSA Capacity Development Plan was developed and subsequently implemented (Annex 5.9). BLI Project Manager, Ms. Miliana Ravuso worked with Live & Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI) Project Manager Bill Apusae to deliver a Strategic Planning Workshop for the LTWHSA (March 2024). All 12 members of the Committee, 4 of which are women (1 holding Assistant Treasurer position) contributed into the planning framework.

Figure 8. *Stakeholder mapping exercise by LTWHSA Committee members, at the Strategic Planning Workshop.*

Indicator 3.2 A four-year LTWHSA Strategic Plan has been developed, outlining 4 strategic priorities: sustainable management of the ERWHS, development of sustainable livelihoods for the people of East Rennell, development of the capacity of the LTWHSA and strengthening partnerships/collaboration with key partners like the EREPA Project (Annex 5.10). These strategic goals were discussed at length and agreed amongst the LTWHSA committee members, demonstrating growing governance maturity and confidence in future planning for East Rennell.

Indicator 3.3 Addressing the project administration, financial management and basic fundraising capacity needs were prioritised, with the training delivered by BLI Project Manager to the LTWHSA Committee and LPC. A separate training session was held with the female members of the Committee to ensure more active dialogue and interaction. Contents of progress and field reports submitted by the LTWHSA and LPC indicate an improvement in the level of understanding and awareness of financial management and accountability. The LTWHSA governance training in early 2024 catalysed the decision to review the LTWHSA's 2009 Constitution – the first review since it was developed. The revised Constitution—reflecting priorities such as women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods— was presented and endorsed by ERWHS communities at the LTWHSA AGM in June 2024. The election of new Committee members at the AGM provided an opportunity for outgoing members to pass on knowledge and skills, ensuring continuity and strengthening the capacity of the newly formed leadership. The new Committee members are fully supportive of the Strategic Plan.

Indicator 3.4 An Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 5.11), developed by project consultant Dr. Ray Pierce, was used to train Rangers in implementing standardised monitoring protocols. As part of these protocols, Rangers regularly checked and replenished bait stations to monitor and control Black Rat populations within 1km² rodent control plots in each community forest. They also monitored the abundance of key indicator crops and endemic bird species, using methods such as 5-minute point counts. By the end of the project, Rangers had demonstrated competency in ecological monitoring, with results directly informing the evaluation of rodent control outcomes at the ERWHS.

Indicator 3.5 Reporting quality from the LTWHSA has improved markedly, evidenced by the submission of two comprehensive State of Conservation (SOC) Reports in February 2024 & February 2025, (Annex 5.12) to UNESCO National Commission at the MEHRD in Honiara. These SOC reports are consolidated by the State (SIG) for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

Output 4:

Indicator 4.1 The Savings Clubs have drawn a total of 120 women from the 4 communities (33 from Hutuna village, 30 from Niupani, 30 from Tevaitahe & 27 from Tegano), 3 times more than the targeted number. Formal agreement documents and Operation Guidelines for the Savings Clubs were discussed & agreed amongst the members. With a baseline of zero (SBD$0), the women were encouraged to used existing resources to generate income, so they could contribute towards the savings clubs. In addition, the cash flow into the community from this project (wages for Rangers & casuals for monitoring, boat hire, purchase of fuel, etc.) meant more members were proportioning funds to contribute to their individual savings (in their respective village clubs). Members of the Savings Clubs meet fortnightly in their villages, where they would collect savings from individual members.

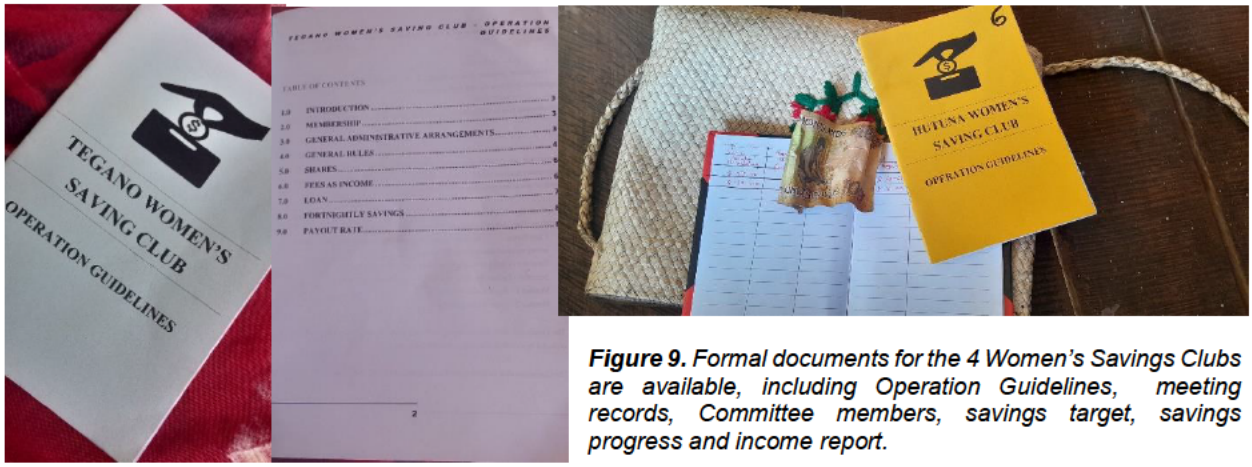


Figure 9. *Formal documents for the 4 Women's Savings Clubs are available, including Operation Guidelines, meeting records, Committee members, savings target, savings progress and income report.*

Indicator 4.2 The LTWHSA has forged partnerships with the Kastom Garden Association (KGA), a local based NGO, as part of a new funding stream from UNESCO to strengthen food security and to promote income generation using locally available resources. The KGA has carried out training in pilot model farms for at least 20 people from each village, 50 % of which are women. Community members were trained in weaving and crafting by older folk in the village.

Indicator 4.3 There has been a 100% increase in both, capacity built amongst the women and accrued savings collected (refer to Annex 5.13 for Savings Clubs Monitoring Report). In November 2024, the Hutuna Women's Savings Club collectively saved over SBD$41,000 over 11 months and this was shared amongst its 26 members in December. Apart from this, the women contributed to the airfares of 14 men in the community, to attend a church conference in Honiara. The Niupani Women's Savings Club shared its first payout of over SBD$20,000 amongst 35 members, in December 2024 after only 6 months of starting up. Although Tegano (SBD$13,500) and Tevaitahe (SBD$6,500) Savings Clubs increased their savings from a baseline of $0, their totals remained lower than the other two villages due to a delayed startup and difficulties coordinating women in each of the villages to meet at the same time.

Indicator 4.4 This Indicator was not fully achieved, as the Local Consultant Christina Nasiu had difficulty meeting timelines for this engagement. However, BLI Project Manager conducted a brief proposal writing workshop for the LTWHSA Committee Members, using only key and relevant themes from BLI's fundraising manual. BLI and the LTWHSA have secured some funds to continue to work together until March 2027. Activities will include baiting for the smaller islets in Lake Tegano and ensuring publications and outcomes from this project are shared widely.

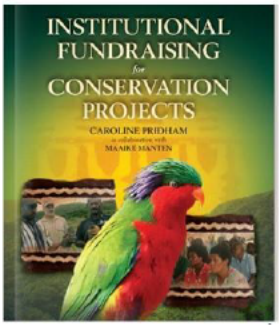


Figure 10. *Front cover of BirdLife's Institutional Fundraising toolkit. The manual is accessed internally BLI's staff HATCH page.*

Indicator 4.5 Despite some delays in the rollout of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme led by Live & Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI), the capacity of the LTWHSA has grown substantially through its involvement in the government-led EREPA project. EREPA, a major GEF-6 investment managed by the SIG, aims to establish a national network of effectively managed protected areas, with the ERWHS identified as one of the priority sites. Once these foundational systems are in place, the PES scheme will be activated to support long-term conservation incentives – including, potentially the rodent control program. In November 2023, with support from the EREPA & LLSI project, the Local Planning Committee (LPC) led a delegation of East Rennell tribal representatives on a learning exchange visit to the Babatana Rainforest Conservation Area in Choiseul Province—currently the first site in Solomon Islands to participate in the PES scheme. This exchange, led by the LTWHSA marked an important step in preparing East Rennell communities for similar engagement. Ongoing support from both EREPA and LLSI has been assured, with plans to recruit and train LTWHSA Rangers to support data collection and monitoring under these initiatives. This not only ensures continuity of technical skills developed during the current project but also positions LTWHSA as a key local partner in sustaining conservation outcomes well beyond the project's original timeframe.

Output 5:

Indicator 5.1 The BLI Communications Plan has remained adaptive (Annex 5.14), with regular updates made in response to project developments and feedback from LTWHSA and key implementing partners. A shared understanding and agreement were maintained regarding the various communication products needed to support the implementation and monitoring of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan.

Indicator 5.2 Change to this Indicator was approved in August 2024, so communication with the MEHRD began thereafter, however there were delays in feedback from the curriculum unit of the MEHRD. In February 2025, the Rennell bird pocket guide was drafted and circulated for review before being finalized in late March. The MEHRD is extremely excited with this opportunity & has endorsed this educational resource (Annex 5.5). The booklets will be presented to the MEHRD, who will ensure the dissemination to East Rennell communities and schools.

Indicator 5.3 National biosecurity policies such as the NISSAP and NBSAP have not been progressed by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) during the project term, as noted in the Project Logframe. However, a key outcome of the Biosecurity Workshop held in Honiara in March 2024 was the recognition of the need to incorporate biosecurity priorities into the *Rennell and Bellona Province Resource Management and Environmental Protection Ordinance Draft (2023)*. With the endorsement of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan, these biosecurity priorities and response measures will now be integrated into the Provincial Ordinance, strengthening local-level implementation. An extract of the Provincial Ordinance is attached as Annex 5.15.

Indicator 5.4 National-level coordination was strengthened through regular engagement with MECDM, the EREPA Project Team, Live & Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI) and the Biosecurity Division of MALB. The SOC Report submitted to UNESCO (Annex 5.1) documents progress and supports the case for removing East Rennell WHS from the 'In-Danger' list. The project aimed to develop a case study showcasing the results, impacts, and lessons from a community-based invasive species suppression programme, with a focus on both biodiversity and agricultural outcomes. However, limited and inconsistent data on agricultural impacts—particularly crop damage—restricted the scope of analysis within the project timeframe. As a result, the current case study (Annex 5.16) focuses on the overall suppression program and the importance of local engagement and partnerships. There are plans to further analyse the available agricultural data and, with more time and continued monitoring, produce a more comprehensive, evidence-based assessment in the future.

Indicator 5.5 Due to delays in data analysis and the finalisation of key documents—including the Case Study and Rennell and Bellona Biosecurity Plan —full publication and dissemination was not completed by the end of the project (this also affected spending projections for the final year). However, these resources have now been finalised and are ready for sharing. Throughout the project, BLI and LTWHSA staff actively engaged in regional forums and networks—including SPREP's PRISMSS, Kiwa Initiative workshops, and BirdLife Partnership meetings—where the project and its outcomes were presented. These platforms will be used to disseminate the final knowledge products to targeted stakeholders as planned, including SPREP, Invasive Species Battler Resource Base, the Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP), the BirdLife Partnership, and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

3.2 Outcome

Evidence base and enabling conditions for sustained IAS/rodent control in 4 ERWHS communities and Province-wide biosecurity established, contributing to food security, livelihood resilience, endemic biodiversity protection and national/regional IAS responses.

Despite initial delays in Y1 that affected the timeline for baseline assessments and some implementation milestones, evidence to date suggests the project has achieved its intended Outcome. The outcome was largely achieved with most indicators surpassing the targets set, and some indicators falling short of set targets for reasons explained below against each outcome indicator.

Indicator 0.1 Through the rodent control/IAS management regime, the project has established sufficient evidence of the impacts of Black rats to biodiversity within the ERWHS villages. Baseline surveys were conducted to assess IAS/rodent presence and perceived impacts to biodiversity, crops and stored food. Monitoring data, both ecological and socio-economic were collected pre- and post-intervention using standardized methods for rodent trapping, crop damage assessments, and household surveys. Data analysis shows a reduction in rodent-related crop damage in treatment areas, compared to baselines reported by community members during the household socioeconomic survey (Annex 5.4). Although monitoring data were collected regularly by Rangers, its quality and usability were limited due to reliance on JPEG images transmitted via social media. BLI mitigated this by mobilizing an IT specialist to digitize monitoring tools via Kobo Toolbox. However, unreliable internet and power supply in Rennell delayed the transfer of monitoring data to BLI in a consistent, analysable format. These data transmission issues were not explicitly listed in the original logframe assumptions but fall within broader assumptions around infrastructure and communications capacity. The team responded with appropriate corrective actions, including direct technical support and simplified data entry on excel, that were transmitted via email.

Indicator 0.2 An increase in bird sightings, corroborated by trail camera data, has documented new nesting activity of the endemic Ghoghoviu (Rennell Shrikebill), indicating potential early-stage population recovery of this key indicator species. Monitoring methods have been clearly outlined in the Rodent Suppression Operational Plan (Annex 5.2), the ERWHS Forest Bird, Snail Search, and Crop Monitoring Protocols (Annex 5.3), and the Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 5.11). The proportion of juveniles as a measure of productivity between the treatment and non-treatment sites indicated a possible benefit for three of the 6 indicator bird species. The Rennell Shrikebill and Bar-eyed White-eye are showing proportionally higher numbers of juveniles in 2024 in the treatment areas albeit unlikely to be statistically significant.

Rennell Shrikebill (Ghoghoviu)

	All Sites					
	Treatment Area			Non-treatment Area		
	Adult	Juvenile	Percent	Adult	Juvenile	Percent
2023	82	7	8.5%	13	3	23.1%
2024	21	5	23.8%	68	12	17.6%

Bar-eyed White-eye (Ghagha)

	All Sites					
	Treatment Area			Non-treatment Area		
	Adult	Juvenile	Percent	Adult	Juvenile	Percent
2023	204	13	6.4%	24	4	16.7%
2024	68	9	13.2%	117	15	12.8%

An increase in juveniles could be expected given the increases detected in the point counts, however, difficulties distinguishing the different age classes and inconsistent levels of age structure monitoring effort may have contributed to the result. An increased level of monitoring capability and/or longer period may help inform the result. The Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 5.12) which specifies the key indicator species used to inform the results, is being incorporated into the ERWHS Management Plan which is currently being reviewed under the EREPA Project.

Indicator 0.3 A comprehensive biosecurity plan—developed collaboratively by local stakeholders from Rennell and national counterparts in Honiara—has been produced for the Renbel Province(Annex 5.7). This marks a significant milestone for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Biosecurity (MALB), as it is the first provincial biosecurity plan to be completed in the Solomon Islands. The formal endorsement of the plan by the Rennell Bellona Provincial Government demonstrates strong provincial commitment and sets a valuable precedent for the development of similar plans across the remaining eight provinces. However, while the plan has been developed, endorsed and shared with the Ward Development Committee representatives – alongside supporting communication materials reaching the c.3000 residents on Rennell, its effective implementation remains a challenge. Continued support from the MALB will be essential to deliver community training in biosecurity protocols, along with the necessary resourcing, so that local stakeholders are equipped with the capacity to put the plan into action. The Rennell Bellona Provincial Government is committed to ensuring this happen.

Indicator 0.4 While national-level biosecurity frameworks such as the NISSAP and NBSAP were not progressed by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG)—due to factors beyond project control, including shifting national priorities and limited resourcing—progress was achieved at the provincial level. A key outcome of the Biosecurity Workshop in Honiara (March 2024) was the agreement to integrate biosecurity priorities into the Draft Resource Management and Environmental Protection Ordinance for Rennell and Bellona Province (2023). With the recent endorsement of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan (Annex 5.7), these priorities and response measures will now be incorporated into the Provincial Ordinance, strengthening the foundation for local-level biosecurity implementation. A case study informing the methodology and results of the rodent control and its impacts on biodiversity as well as communities has been produced (Annex 5.16), this will be shared amongst BirdLife regional and global networks.

Indicator 0.5 All plans were developed in close collaboration with LTWHSA Local Rangers, who received training to support their implementation. Through this process, the project has significantly contributed to strengthening the capacity of LTWHSA, both in technical and administrative areas. Rangers have gained valuable skills in biodiversity and environmental monitoring, while the broader organization has taken important steps toward institutional development. This includes the creation of LTWHSA's first Strategic Plan (Annex 5.10), submission of well-documented reports on the condition of the ERWHS to the Solomon Islands Government (Annex 5.12), and the formation of new partnerships, such as with Kastom Garden Association. While LTWHSA remains a developing grassroots organization, these advancements have laid a solid foundation for improved governance and long-term institutional sustainability. Together with continued collaboration with MECDM and the EREPA team, the project has established key enabling conditions for ongoing rodent control and environmental monitoring within the ERWHS.

Indicator 0.6 By EOP, 4 Women's Savings Clubs were established in each of the 4 ERWHS villages, and registered under the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA). Each Savings Clubs has its own policy documents outlining operation of the Clubs and savings targets. Local Consultant Christina Nasiu carried out the training workshops using the Live & Learn SI's Women's Savings Club Training Guide – a successfully proven resource guide that has been used across other Provinces in the Solomon Islands. The adoption of constitutions that support equitable benefit sharing has created a platform for future financial and technical assistance for women-led livelihood initiatives. Registration of the Savings Clubs with MWYCFA will enable access to livelihood support and markets, creating long-term benefits for women in East Rennell. The approach reflects strong contextual sensitivity and has been well received by communities. Testimonials from members of the Savings Clubs can be found in the monitoring report (Annex 5.13).

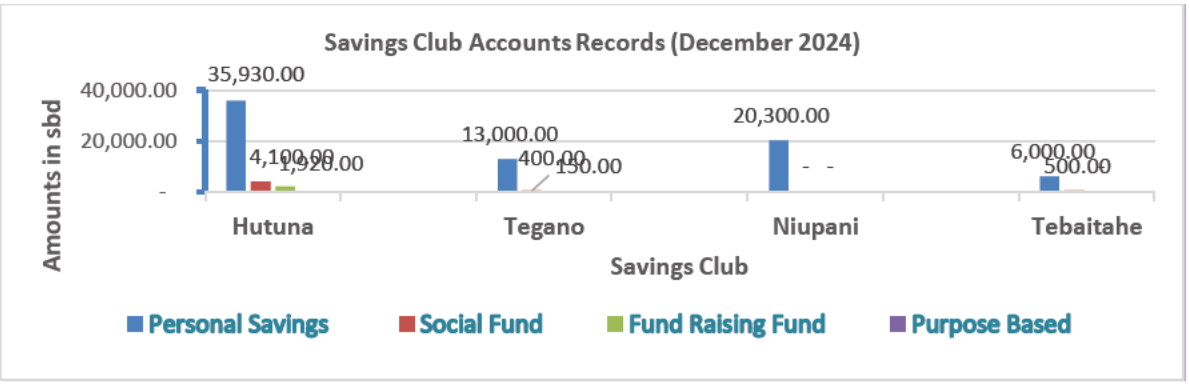


Figure 11. Savings Clubs accounts showed a huge increase by December 2024; this continues to motivate the women of East Rennell.

3.3 Monitoring of Assumptions

All five outcome-level assumptions remain broadly valid, with some minor qualifications. Weather conditions did not significantly affect bait uptake, as bait condition and uptake were closely monitored and managed. This is also the reason why bait was not pre-purchased in bulk, as they typically have a shelf life of at least one year, dependent on storage conditions.

The treatment design, adapted from regional rodent control experience, effectively suppressed rat populations, with increased activity observed in control plots confirming its success. While the assumption that reduced rat populations would lead directly to improved food security remained true, the contribution of this to improved incomes proved partially valid—due to the communal "wantok" system limiting individual economic gains. The project effectively pivoted to strengthen local governance, enhanced wellbeing and promote financial empowerment through Savings Clubs. Although the timeframe was too short for comprehensive comparative analysis of treated and untreated sites, baseline monitoring systems were established, and early trends are promising. Finally, no major external shocks were encountered; resumed air travel and the absence of COVID-19 restrictions enabled smooth project implementation.

Output Assumptions:

For **Output 1**, Assumption 1 remained true/valid throughout the project, with all 4 ERWHS communities maintaining support for the project and participating in rodent control monitoring. However, this came at a cost, as more people were paid to conduct the monitoring, therefore increasing expenditure on this in the first 2 years (LTWHSA per diem/subsistence). Assumption 2—regarding the timely procurement and delivery of bait—proved only partially valid, due to logistical and shipping delays in Y1 & 2. To adapt, the project revised its delivery strategy and reduced the volume of bait procured, avoiding stockpiling that could lead to spoilage or misalignment with control schedules. This approach ensured rodent control activities remained coordinated with bait availability and the monitoring protocols. However, as a result, the project may not have fully utilised the budget originally allocated for this. Similarly, Assumption 5—regarding the recruitment of a Master's student to contribute to data analysis—was partially valid but required revision due to delays in the student's research progress. As a result, a project change request was submitted, and project staff took the lead in completing data analysis to maintain progress on key indicators. Despite the adjustment, the fieldwork and data collected under the rodent control program remain central to project reporting. The findings have been analysed and interpreted by the project team, with outcomes actively used to inform management decisions and shared with stakeholders as part of the project's knowledge dissemination efforts. For **Output 2**, assumptions about government and private sector engagement proved valid. Biosecurity SI and local stakeholders—including commercial actors—actively supported the development of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan, ensuring progress toward policy endorsement. Under **Output 3,** the assumption that the government would provide consistent funding for the ERWHS was not met. The project responded by focusing on a diversified financing approach, including grant development and support for a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) strategy, through the EREPA Project, in line with indicators on LTWHSA institutional strengthening. Under **Output 4**, the assumption that women would generate regular income from handicrafts and contribute financially to rodent control proved optimistic. It assumed a strong existing focus on handicraft production as almost as a competitive exercise for generating income, which was not the case. Socioeconomic & wellbeing assessment findings revealed that women prioritized financial independence and savings over immediate income generation efforts. This prompted a strategic shift toward long-term empowerment through the establishment of Savings Clubs. Finally, all assumptions for **Output 5** (project results and lessons shared) remained valid. Despite some data limitations, the rodent control trial has yielded important lessons that are being shared through a case study to inform best practices in invasive species management across the Pacific.

Overall, the expected pathway to change remains broadly valid. While some assumptions evolved, they did not undermine the project's logic or impact trajectory. Adaptations were made in response to real-time feedback and contextual shifts, especially regarding community socioeconomics and logistics. Monitoring of assumptions, alongside adaptive management practices, has ensured that the project remained responsive, relevant, and strategically aligned with both community needs and biodiversity outcomes.

3.4 Impact

The Impact statement in the project application aimed to contribute to the long-term vision whereby the biological and social sustainability of the ERWHS would be secured, thereby

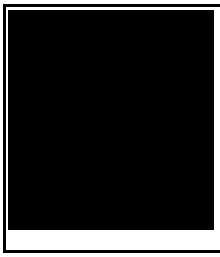
contributing to the fulfilment of Solomon Islands' commitments under the CBD and the achievement of relevant National Development Strategy objectives.

The project successfully advanced the intended higher-level impacts by addressing biodiversity threats from invasive rodents while strengthening inclusive, gender-responsive systems for community-led conservation and development. Significant and measurable progress in conserving biodiversity within the ERWHS was achieved through the implementation of a community-led rodent suppression program across four ERWHS villages, resulting in suppressed rat populations in treated areas. This has directly benefited both subsistence agriculture and endemic biodiversity, particularly through the protection of bird species vulnerable to nest predation. Early data from biodiversity monitoring (including nest camera footage) indicates improved breeding success for indicator bird species within treated plots such as the Rennell Shrikebill.

Figure 12. *Ghoghoviu (Rennell Shrikebill) nest showing breeding success within treatment plots.*

The development of a robust environmental monitoring plan for the ERWHS (Annex 5.11), incorporating biodiversity indicators strengthens the site's management, particularly so if it is to be developed under the country's protected area framework. This monitoring plan is being integrated into the revised ERWHS Management Plan through the EREPA project, ensuring that conservation efforts are institutionalised beyond the life of the project. The project also supported national biosecurity capacity through the development of the first-ever provincial biosecurity plan for the Solomon Islands (Renbel Biosecurity Plan attached as Annex 5.7). This also creates an opportunity to inform and strengthen the *Rennell Bellona Province Resource Management & Environmental Protection Ordinance (Draft 2023)*, an extract of this attached as Annex 5.15. These actions help create enabling conditions for broader-scale biodiversity protection and IAS management across Solomon Islands. Importantly, the project laid the groundwork for long-term sustainability through its collaboration with the EREPA Project and the Live & Learn PES scheme, which is expected to finance ongoing biodiversity conservation activities using performance-based incentives tied to environmental outcomes.

The project's impact on poverty reduction and human wellbeing is evident across multiple dimensions. The establishment and formal registration of 4 Women's Savings Clubs in at the ERWHS villages represents a major empowerment milestone. These clubs are improving financial literacy**,** saving habits**,** and access to micro-capital**,** particularly for women, enabling increased economic self-reliance and resilience. Women have expressed a strong sense of ownership and commitment to long-term community development, including ongoing small-scale rodent control in their gardens.



"It has been very hard for us women to generate income and also to save, but this Savings Clubs is the first time for women to be able to save funds not only for ourselves, but for our families and communities. We are excited to make more handicrafts, and we feel more responsible as we have ownership of our funds, and we can contribute meaningfully to community gatherings and meetings".

The project strengthened the environmental awareness and capacity of the individual members of the LTWHSA, enabling it to function more effectively. With the LTWHSA Strategic Plan (Annex 5.10) now in place – prioritizing sustainable resource management, community livelihoods, capacity development and strengthened partnerships — the association has established a roadmap for long-term economic resilience and community wellbeing linked to conservation. The Strategic Plan also positions the organization to attract support and funding for its operations.

Community-based rangers trained through the project are now embedded in both conservation monitoring and governance structures, ensuring local stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources**.** While higher agricultural yields from reduced rat damage did not directly result in increased cash income (due to the culturally embedded "wantok" system of sharing resources), the improved food security and reduced time burden on women (from less crop loss) have contributed to greater wellbeing and time use efficiency**,** especially when paired with Savings Club activities.

Through its integrated approach, the project has fostered environmental, institutional, and socio-economic resilience within the ERWHS communities. These outcomes provide a strong foundation for future upscaling and sustainability, both within East Rennell and more broadly across Solomon Islands.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project Support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project directly supports the implementation of the Solomon Islands NBSAP.

Strategic Goal A, Target 1: Increased biodiversity awareness & action for protecting biodiversity – The project itself has been developed together with local communities & government agencies and throughout its implementation, capacity and knowledge about Rennell's biodiversity values have increased. The environmental monitoring is expected to continue through the SIG-led EREPA project.

Strategic Goal A, Target 2: Effective Implementation of existing environmental laws, regulations, policies, management plans – Biosecurity planning consultations have contributed to the Renbel Province Resource Management & Environmental Protection Ordinance (Annex 5.15), currently under development, and if passed, becomes an Act). Biodiversity indicators used by the project have been incorporated into the ERWHS Management Plan – for review & implementation.

Strategic Goal C, Target 13: Prevent extinction and improve conservation status of threatened species – The community-based invasive species (rodent) control program directly supports this target by improving the conservation status of 6 indicator endemic bird species & endemic snails within the ERWHS. A biodiversity monitoring framework developed through the project enables ongoing data collection to track these improvements (now and beyond project life).

Strategic Goal B, Target 10: Identify and manage invasive alien species and their pathways – The Renbel Biosecurity Plan, developed under the project, identifies priority pathways and response measures aligned with national IAS prevention strategies, including the SI Biosecurity Act 2013.

National Development Strategy 2016–2035, Objective 4: Resilient and environmentally sustainable development – By strengthening local governance (LTWHSA), improving food security, and supporting sustainable livelihoods through Savings Clubs, the project contributes to building environmentally resilient communities across the ERWHS landscape.

The project contributes to international conventions to which the Solomon Islands is a signatory, including core objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

CBD Obj. 1: Conservation of biological diversity – Through the suppression of invasive species and strengthened management of the ERWHS, the project helps safeguard a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

CBD Obj. 2: Sustainable use of biodiversity components – Community-driven models for rodent control, supported by local rangers and sustainable agriculture efforts, demonstrate the value of biodiversity and its habitats & ecosystems in supporting human wellbeing and food systems.

CBD Obj. 3: Fair and equitable sharing of benefits – The Savings Clubs and LTWHSA governance structure provide platforms for equitable distribution of conservation benefits, particularly empowering women through access to financial resources and leadership roles.

GBF Target 2: Restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030 – The rodent control program functions as a targeted ecosystem restoration measure, contributing to the recovery of native species and improved ecosystem functioning in ERWHS.

GBF Target 6: Reduce impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) – The project's local rodent management strategy reduces IAS threats and provides insights and lessons to inform broader national and regional invasive species management planning.

GBF Target 9: Ensure sustainable and customary use of wild species – By integrating traditional ecological knowledge and customary practices into ERWHS management, the project supports culturally grounded conservation aligned with local values and norms.

GBF Target 8: Enhance resilience to climate change through nature-based solutions – Community-led efforts to control invasive rodents contribute to both crop protection and biodiversity conservation, strengthening ecosystem resilience and enabling nature-based solutions to climate change impacts.

Renbel Province faces serious threats from invasive species, which is one of the main reasons East Rennell remains on UNESCO's World Heritage Convention List of WHS In-Danger. A key requirement for its removal from this List is the effective management of invasive species. The Desired State of Conservation for Removal (DSOCR) specifically highlights the need to identify and mitigate threats from existing invasive species and to implement robust biosecurity measures to prevent further introductions. The State of Conservation (SOC) Reports submitted by the SIG to UNESCO(Annex 5.1), clearly reference the Darwin project's contributions towards restoring the site's ecological integrity and advancing progress toward delisting. Encouragingly, the latest UNESCO World Heritage and Advisory Bodies' Analysis & Conclusions indicate that efforts to remove East Rennell from the In-Danger List are well on track to be achieved by the end of 2025.

4.2 Project Support for Multidimensional Poverty Reduction

The project contributed to evidence-based conservation through its experimental design, comparing treated and untreated plots for biodiversity and livelihood outcomes. Rodent (Black rat) activity data, crop yields, and bird breeding success were systematically recorded and analysed, with results and outcomes feeding into provincial planning instruments (Renbel Biosecurity Plan, Annex 5.7; Renbel Provincial Ordinance, Annex 5.15, local governance frameworks (LTWHSA Strategic Plan, Annex 5.10; ERWHS Monitoring Pan, Annex 5.11) and publications (Case Study, Annex 5.16). The findings are being disseminated to inform similar interventions across the Solomon Islands and the Pacific region, directly supporting Darwin Initiative Standard Indicators DI-B01, DI-B03, DI-CO1 (refer to Annex 3 for details). Through the rodent suppression program, the project has contributed to improving local livelihoods and reducing poverty for about 800 beneficiaries at the ERWHS. Although higher agricultural yields from rodent suppression were not always monetised due to cultural sharing norms, the resulting increase in food security and reduction in crop loss (from rat suppression) strengthened household resilience. By providing paid employment to Rangers and community members—who conduct regular monitoring across 1 km² treatment and non-treatment plots—the project has helped strengthen household incomes and savings. This has not only supported financial wellbeing but also enhanced local ownership and participation during the project term (DI-DO3b refer to Annex 3). The Renbel Biosecurity Plan plays a critical role in strengthening food security, livelihood resilience, and the protection of endemic biodiversity in the province. By establishing protocols to prevent, detect, and respond to IAS and other biosecurity threats, the plan safeguards local agriculture and food systems from potential pest and disease outbreaks that could severely impact staple crops and livestock. This, in turn, helps ensure stable food supplies and supports the livelihoods of rural communities that depend heavily on subsistence farming and natural resources (DI-D04a, DI-D05b refer to Annex 3).

The plan includes measures to protect Renbel's unique ecosystems and endemic species—such as the Ghoghoviu (Rennell Shrikebill)—from biosecurity risks that could threaten their survival. This contributes to long-term conservation and ecosystem health (DI-D02, DI-D07 in Annex 3). The establishment of 4 village-based Women's Savings Clubs has made a tangible impact on poverty reduction in East Rennell. In areas where access to formal financial services is limited or non-existent, these Clubs offer a culturally appropriate and accessible alternative for financial inclusion.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered, and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	X

As part of the rodent suppression program, deliberate efforts were made to ensure equitable participation of women and men, across age groups (excluding children). At project inception, communities were informed of the physically demanding nature of establishing 1 km² treatment plots, which involved clearing dense vegetation and setting GPS grids prior to bait station installation. Eight male LTWHSA Local Rangers were nominated for this role. However, with support from BLI, LTWHSA also actively engaged women in other forest-based tasks traditionally dominated by men —a significant step toward challenging gender norms in conservation and invasive species management. This inclusive approach recognizes women's customary and legal rights and their historical role in subsistence and knowledge systems, while also expanding their participation in technical and scientific fieldwork. By enabling women to access training and contribute to biodiversity protection, the project is building gender-inclusive capacity and promoting community-led environmental stewardship.

One of the most powerful examples of social empowerment under this project has been the establishment & success of women-led village Savings Clubs. The Clubs have significantly strengthened women's leadership, economic activity, and their role in building household and community resilience. Originally designed to support women's financial independence, the Clubs have exceeded expectations, attracted strong participation and delivered tangible benefits not only for women but also for the wider community. Beyond personal savings, women have collectively supported community needs, such as contributing to travel costs for village representatives. The initiative challenges traditional gender roles by placing women at the centre of local financial systems and decision-making—advancing both gender equality and inclusive development.

The project has shown strong sensitivity to the social and cultural context of East Rennell. The 2 main denominations—South Sea Evangelical Church (SSEC, Sabbath on Sundays) and Seventh Day Adventist (SDA, Sabbath on Saturdays)—directly influence community availability. To respect these beliefs and avoid exclusion, the project carefully scheduled activities around days of worship. For example, work in SSEC-aligned villages (Tevaitahe & Niupani) was held on Saturdays, while SDA villages (Hutuna & Tegano) followed a different schedule. This approach reflects a strong commitment to inclusion, mutual respect, and ensuring all communities have equitable access to participation and decision-making.

4.4 Transfer of Knowledge

By end of project, several key knowledge products were developed and will be shared to support awareness and learning at local, national, regional, and global levels. Central among these is a detailed Case Study (Annex 5.16), which documents the project's approach, results, and the critical role of community involvement in its success. The Case Study highlights practical lessons and factors that contributed to effective implementation, serving as a valuable reference for future invasive species management efforts in similarly remote and culturally complex settings. In addition, biosecurity communication materials on four priority invasive species, a Provincial Biosecurity Plan, and a child-friendly Bird Pocket Guide for Rennell have been produced – all of which will be distributed widely by BLI & the LTWHSA. Knowledge generated through the project was shared via BirdLife's regional and global platforms, including the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service and the BirdLife Pacific Regional Partnership. LTWHSA's Local Project Coordinator (LPC), George Tauika, represented the project at the regional Ecosystem Resilience Learning Network (ERLN), hosted by the Samoa Conservation Society under a BirdLife-led invasive species & climate resilience program. At this event, he shared experiences and lessons from East Rennell with 13 other practitioners from Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, and Samoa. The LPC has also participated in various national-level training where he has shared learnings from this project and in turn, brought back learnings from training into the project. A case in example is the SPREP GIS Training and Community-Base Landuse Planning & Management Workshop in partnership with the EREPA Project.

4.5 Capacity Building

DI-A03 All 12 members of the LTWHSA Committee, 4 of which are women, were trained in project management and basic financial administration, this included proper issuing of funds and proper receipting, drafting summary and progress reports, and understanding the basics of proposal writing. A refresher session on the importance and value of the ERWHS was conducted with the Committee, alongside understanding their governance structure. The LTWHSA Committee participated in a strategic planning exercise, resulting in the development of the first ever LTWHSA Strategic Plan, and an agreement to undertake a review of its 2009 Constitution.

DI-A04 LTWHSA LPC George Tauika submitting much improved quarterly progress reports to BLI and 2 annual State of Conservation (SOC) reports to the SIG. Four (4) Local Rangers were trained in GPS monitoring, bait uptake, assessing bait condition, managing replacement bait quantities, data collection, and making general field observations in the treatment areas. 120 women have undergone formal training in the setup & management of Women's Savings Clubs, with all 4 village clubs now registered under the MWYCFA.

DI-A05 Four Local Rangers trained by BLI for the project have trained 250 other members of the ERWHS communities in rodent control implementation & monitoring, and 40% of these have been women.

5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The project logframe was changed and approved on 13/08/24 (CR reference #NO286) to reflect the change in partnership for the Women's Savings Clubs and to resolve the issue surrounding the Masters (MSc) research program. The delay in submitting the change request – later rather than earlier on in the project is explained below:

i. Initial efforts to partner with the Solomon Islands Handicraft Association (SIHA) were unsuccessful due to limited engagement, despite BLI's repeated follow-up, including after the 2023 Pacific Games (Nov-Dec). This, combined with findings from the ERWHS Household, SE, Income & Wellbeing Survey (Annex 5.4), highlighted that community members—who primarily rely on subsistence farming and who receive some financial support from relatives in Honiara—preferred Savings Clubs as a more practical and trusted approach to promote financial empowerment and self-reliance. As a result, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) was identified as a more appropriate partner to support the establishment and registration of Women's Savings Clubs. This strategic shift was endorsed by the LTWHSA Committee in March 2024, and a Change Request to revise Indicators 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 was approved in August 2024 (Ref #NO286), refocusing on financial literacy, collective savings, and community benefit-sharing.

ii. Considerable time and resources were invested in recruiting a local MSc student and developing the research scope in collaboration with USP, the research advisor, and BLI. Despite repeated guidance, meetings, and proposal reviews, the student failed to address feedback, and by the end of Year 2, no credible research design had been produced. As a result, the control model has been incorporated into the Case Study, drawing on lessons from local suppression and monitoring activities. Additionally, the Rennell Bird Pocket Guide, developed as an educational tool informed by local action, will add value by supporting schools, students, and educators.

The M&E system for the project was practical, iterative, and responsive to emerging needs and project developments. Stakeholder feedback was actively gathered through biosecurity consultations, Project Steering Committee meetings, and one-on-one meetings, feeding into the refinement of project activities and alignment with national priorities. Project monitoring processes, including the use of the project logframe and performance indicators were used to track progress and inform adaptive management.

[redacted] [redacted]

"When BirdLife started working with LTWHSA Committee to implement this project, we were very happy and supported the project, because we wanted to make sure the rodents stopped doing damage to our crops and gardens. When the project started in our communities, I noticed that only men were recruited to work in the project. But as the work rolled on, more community meetings happened, women and young girls started to be engaged in bird monitoring and checking of baits in the treatment areas. Being engaged in this work is very interesting, especially when I was tasked to record data on birds. In this project, a lot of widows, unfortunate families were also engaged in the monitoring work and because of the payment (allowances) for the work, they are able to meet their basic needs. This is the first time we engage in conservation activities and get paid. I have learnt a lot from this project and I'm looking forward to engaging in more activities like this in the future".

6 Lessons Learnt

Implementing a complex conservation initiative in a remote, under-resourced setting like East Rennell revealed several key lessons. It underscored the challenges of working in isolated island contexts – especially when dependent on external logistics, digital communication, and cross-agency coordination.

i. Build in flexibility for travel, logistics, and procurement: Irregular shipping, poor infrastructure, unpredictable flights (twice weekly, weather-dependent) and limited access from West to East Rennell (only 1-2 suitable vehicles and potentially available) frequently disrupted timelines—particularly for BLI staff travelling from Fiji. Travel from Honiara to ERWHS requires a day. To facilitate logistics, projects should pre-position essential supplies several months in advance in Honiara and ideally on Rennell to reduce delays. Secure storage will be necessary. High transportation costs are likely unavoidable (because of the limited supply) but negotiating a contract rate for a set period between West and East Rennell may help, and/or independently supplying fuel.

ii. Adapt to low-connectivity environments: With limited internet and mobile coverage, simplified data tools and regular in-person check-ins were essential for effective coordination, monitoring, and communication.
iii. Design around cultural context: Individual enterprise models face challenges under the *wantok* system, where communal sharing is deeply rooted. Collective approaches—such as Savings Clubs—better reflected local norms and proved more sustainable.
iv. Strengthen local capacity and decision-making: National-level partners were critical but relying on them for key decisions caused delays. Empowering local focal points and decentralising coordination helped improve responsiveness and continuity.
v. Plan for external risks and embed resilience: Communities face compounding pressures—from climate vulnerability and weak public services to persistent IAS threats. Project designs must be flexible and invest in local governance, financial literacy, and risk reduction early.
vi. Allow sufficient time and resources to demonstrate impact: Managing invasive species in socially complex and culturally unique contexts like East Rennell requires long-term engagement. Meaningful outcomes—ecological, behavioural, and institutional—take time to emerge and need sustained investment beyond typical project cycles. Increased technical and administrative support is necessary to embed operational procedures, data collection & management, and coordination with local personnel. While this will incur additional costs, these are offset by the enhanced capability/capacity building and the sustainability of project outcomes and impact.

7 Actions Taken in Response to Annual Report Reviews

Issues raised in reviews of Annual Report 1 & 2 have been discussed and addressed with the LTWHSA and key implementing partners. The following are in response to outstanding issues raised in the review of Annual Report 2.

Comment 1: The project has selected and reported appropriately against several DI Standard Indicators; reviewer urges the project to check the list for other indicators that might be appropriate. *Response:* Additional indicators have been added; these are reflected in Annex 3.

Comment 2: Difficulties resolving the Masters research program, and it is not clear how and when this might be resolved. *Response*: Despite consistent support from the BLI Project Team, IAS Technical Advisor Dr Ray Pierce, and USP Supervisor, the MSc student was unable to develop a viable research design by the end of Y2. In consultation with the University and advisors, it was agreed the study could not be completed within the project timeframe. The project then shifted focus to local education, producing the Rennell Bird Pocket Guide with the UNESCO National Commission Desk at MEHRD to raise awareness among school students about the biodiversity values of the ERWHS.

Comment 3: The project reports an outbreak of widespread rat damage early in 2024, which it believes may be associated with a lapse in bait replenishment in December and January, or it may be related to food availability and a breeding pulse. If the latter, does the project have any contingency plans to deal with such outbreaks in the future? *Response:* The lapse in bait replenishment during December–January was largely due to competing community commitments over the busy holiday period, including people's movement between Rennell & Honiara. This highlighted the importance of maintaining continuous baiting, especially during peak rodent breeding periods. These lessons have been discussed with LTWHSA and local rangers. The understanding of how local conditions effect people's priorities/decisions are among the lessons this project has provided to inform the 'proof of concept' of landscape scale rat control including the leadership and capacity needed to sustain it.

Comment 4: Despite considerable challenges faced in the first year, the project steering committee (PSC) did not meet until August of Y2. The reviewer feels that, despite the progress made in Y2, the project would benefit from more frequent meetings. *Response:* Another full PSC meeting was held in Y3. More frequent meetings were limited by the availability of key government representatives, reflecting broader institutional capacity constraints in the Solomon Islands. To maintain engagement, the project team used one-on-one Zoom and email communication, met PSC members during field visits, and set up a shared Google Drive for ongoing input and document access. This flexible approach ensured continuity in project oversight.

8 Risk Management

The project has updated its Risk Register (31/03/25) and is submitted with this Final Report.

9 Scalability and Durability

This project has set the groundwork for East Rennell PA framework for Solomon Islands. With an invasive species control project trialled at the ERWHS, methodologies adopted and implemented by local communities, and a biosecurity plan in place for the Province, it has put in place structures and strategies that can be carried forward or further strengthened by authorities and other NGO Partners to carry on the work. The ERWHS communities have been assured of ongoing support from both the EREPA and LLSI teams. LTWHSA Rangers will be recruited and trained to contribute to data collection efforts under these continuing initiatives—helping to sustain the skills, knowledge, and momentum generated by this project well beyond its original timeframe. Through the community-led rodent control program, the project has significantly contributed to biodiversity protection in East Rennell. The program has successfully suppressed rat populations in targeted treatment areas, with results showing reduced predation on native species and crops, alongside increased agricultural yields. These actions support the maintenance of key ecosystem services, including food security and biodiversity regulation (DI-D01b & DI-D07, refer to Annex 3). While these outcomes are promising, sustained rodent control requires long-term investment to ensure lasting impact. Ongoing collaboration with MECDM and EREPA is likely through follow-up projects and continued work on the ERWHS Management Plan. Similarly, LTWHSA remains a key conservation actor on the island and will continue working with LLSI. EREPA and other stakeholders to build on the project's legacy, in its pathway towards achieving its goal of removing the ERWHS from the WHS In-danger List. The inclusion of biodiversity indicators in the Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 5.11)—now being integrated into the ERWHS Management Plan (through EREPA)—provides a strong foundation for ongoing monitoring, adaptive management, and alignment of conservation actions with ecological outcomes. These tools position the program well for future implementation and make it more likely to attract continued funding support.

10 Darwin Initiative Identity

The Darwin Initiative identity has been prominently featured throughout the project, enhancing visibility and reinforcing its credibility among partners, government stakeholders, and local communities. The logo has been consistently applied to key materials, including Communication Records Templates for stakeholder engagements, meetings, workshop programs, power point presentations (Inception Workshop, Biosecurity Planning Workshops, LTWHSA training programs, Strategic planning, Rangers & community meetings, PSC meetings), and communication materials. The Project Inception Workshop was formally launched by the (then) Deputy British High Commissioner in Honiara, HE Steve Auld, and regular communication has since continued with his successor, HE Emma Davis, as well as High Commissioner Tom Coward and outgoing UK British High Commission representative in Fiji, Brian Jones. The Darwin Initiative is a well-recognised and respected donor in the Solomon Islands, and particularly in Fiji, where NGOs such as BirdLife International have received strong support for biodiversity conservation programs. To maintain visibility, the LTWHSA and Local Project Coordinator regularly share project updates on social media—where internet connectivity allows—while the Project Manager uses Facebook to document field visits and activities in East Rennell, often tagging posts with #DarwinInitiative to broaden outreach. An article on the Darwin Initiative website was shared to BLI social media channels.

11 Safeguarding

[redacted]

[redacted]

12 Finance and Administration

12.1 Project Expenditure

Project Spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[redacted]			

Consultancy costs	[redacted]			
Overhead Costs Audit				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	120,975	107,307	**89%**	

Staff Employed (Name and Position)	Cost (£)
Steve Cranwell – Project Leader	[redacted]
Miliana Ravuso – Project Manager	
Melania Bulimaitoga – Project Officer	
Mere Ledua – Finance Officer	
Marcela Bellettini – Fundraising Manager	
Mark O'Brien – Technical Advisor	
William Fairburn – Technical Advisor, Social development, Gender analysis, M&E	
Alessandra Cappelli – Finance and Audit Manager	
Georgie Goody – Legal Advisor	
Sarah Brady – Communication Support	
National Project Coordinator	
Rodent Control Programme – Plot 1 Ranger	
Rodent Control Programme – Plot 2 Ranger	
Rodent Control Programme – Plot 3 Ranger	
Rodent Control Programme – Plot 4 Ranger	
TOTAL	

Capital Items – Description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

Other Items – Description	Other items – cost (£)
Bank Fees, Charges/Inflation Fiji/UK	[redacted]
Publication – IAS Rennell Guideline Posters (CRB, GAS)	
Publication – IAS Rat Control Guidelines	
Publication – IAS Identification & Reporting Guides (YCA, LFA)	
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the projec	Total (£)
MECDM/EREPA Project – GEF6 (USD4.9M)	[redacted]
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
BirdLife International – Kiwa Initiative (€3.5M)	[redacted]
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

The project demonstrated strong value for money by making strategic use of resources to deliver meaningful outcomes for local communities, despite operating in a remote and logistically complex environment. While certain inputs—such as specialist rodent control supplies—had to be sourced internationally due to quality and safety requirements, the project ensured value through trusted suppliers. Transport and logistics costs rose during the project period (e.g. vehicle hire from Rennell airstrip to East Rennell increased from SBD2,500 to SBD3,000 one way), but these were managed through careful scheduling of field visits and cost-sharing with partner projects such as EREPA and LLSI. Wherever possible, project activities were bundled to reduce duplication and maximise the benefit of each trip. Most importantly, the project ensured that investments translated into lasting community benefits. Local rangers received practical training in biosecurity, monitoring, and response, while the shift from handicraft-based livelihoods to Women's Savings Clubs—based on community preference—further strengthened financial resilience and inclusion. These outcomes, achieved through adaptive and locally responsive planning, reflect an effective and equitable use of resources that supported both biodiversity and community wellbeing.

13 Other Comments on Progress Not Covered Elsewhere

Having a female Project Manager contributed positively to gender inclusion by enabling culturally appropriate one-on-one engagement with local women. This created safe spaces for those who may feel hesitant speaking in public forums, ensuring their perspectives were reflected in project planning. In rural Pacific communities like Rennell, where traditional structures often prioritise male voices, such culturally sensitive approaches are essential for meaningful participation.

Project delays were largely due to systemic and infrastructural constraints beyond the team's control. Poor transport links and limited connectivity on Rennell Island delayed data transfer, with Rangers sometimes waiting weeks for new monitoring sheets or opportunities to share data. Unreliable internet and mobile networks meant data could only be sent during rare access or in-person collection. Irregular shipping also disrupted delivery of bait and equipment, affecting field schedules. These challenges reflect the broader realities of working in remote, under-resourced settings, rather than shortcomings in planning or partnerships.

14 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged	Consent of subjects received
Image	Darwin FR_14a	Singing Parrot or Ghisua (local name) – a Rennell endemic. (Photo: S. Cranwell, BLI)		Yes
Image	Darwin FR_14b	BLI Project Manager, Miliana Ravuso monitoring the treatment plots with the LTWHSA Rangers, East Rennell. (Photo: G.Tauika, LTWHSA)		Yes
	Darwin FR_14c	Hutuna Ranger checking bait stations. (Photo: M.Ravuso, BLI)		Yes
Image	Darwin FR_14d	Women are engaged in the rodent suppression program, East Rennell. (Photo: G.Tauika, LTWHSA)		Yes
Image	Darwin FR_14e	Transportation & road inaccessibility continues to be a challenge in East Rennell. (Photo: S. Cranwell, BLI)		Yes
Image	Darwin FR_14f	LTWHSA Rangers during GPS training. (Photo: S.Cranwell, BLI)		Yes
	Darwin FR_14g	Rennell Bellona Premier, Hon Derek Pongi after signing of Biosecurity Plan in Honiara. (Photo: LTWHSA)		Yes
Image	Darwin FR_14h	Participants at the Rennell Biosecurity Workshop Nov 2024 (Photo: M.Ravuso, BLI)		Yes

Annex 1 Report of Progress and Achievements Against Logframe for the Life of the Project

Project Summary	Progress and Achievements
Impact The biological and social sustainability of East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) is secured and contributes to fulfilment of Solomon Islands' CBD commitments, and achievement of National Development Strategy objectives.	The project effectively reduced biodiversity threats from invasive rodents while promoting inclusive, community-led conservation at the East Rennell World Heritage Site. It achieved measurable ecological gains, enhanced local conservation capacity, improved biosecurity planning, and advanced women's economic empowerment through Savings Clubs. The project also strengthened institutional structures for long-term sustainability and laid the groundwork for scaling up conservation efforts across the Solomon Islands.
Outcome Evidence base and enabling conditions for sustained IAS/rodent control in 4 ERWHS communities and Province-wide biosecurity established, contributing to food security, livelihood resilience, endemic biodiversity protection and national/regional IAS responses.	
Outcome indicator 0.1 Damage to 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) by black rats quantified from Y2 and, by EOP, showing a 70% decrease, compared to baselines set at project inception, in 4 rat-controlled demonstration areas, compared to 4 areas with no rat control, contributing to food and/or livelihood security and improved wellbeing.	Baseline and follow-up surveys (Annex 5.4) and monitoring data collected using standard methods (Rodent Suppression Operational Plan – Annex 5.2) show reduced rodent-related crop damage in treatment areas. Data collection faced infrastructure and connectivity challenges, but corrective measures—including use of Excel-based tools—helped improve data quality and transfer. These findings provide evidence of Black rat impacts and the effectiveness of control measures within ERWHS villages.
Outcome indicator 0.2 Impacts of black rats on 7 ERWHS indicator species (Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove and endemic snails) quantified to inform a revised ERWHS Management Plan and environmental monitoring program by Y3Q3.	Increased sightings and new nesting activity of the endemic Rennell Shrikebill (Ghoghoviu), supported by trail camera data, suggest early signs of population recovery. Monitoring methods and indicator species are detailed in Annexes 5.2 and 5.3. The Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 5.11) is being integrated into the revised ERWHS Management Plan under the EREPA Project.
Outcome Indicator 0.3 Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan and IAS control protocols developed with local and national stakeholders by end of Y2 and 15 Renbel communities (c.3000 people, aged 15+) have capacity to implement it by EOP.	The first-ever provincial biosecurity plan for Solomon Islands was developed and endorsed for Renbel Province (Annex 5.7), with strong local and national stakeholder collaboration. The plan has been shared with Ward Development Committees and communicated to Rennell's ~3,000 residents. While implementation capacity remains a challenge, the plan sets an important national precedent and highlights the need for continued MALB support to operationalize local biosecurity actions.
Outcome Indicator 0.4 By EOP, National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) for the Solomon Islands is in place, and Project Case Study shared through established Pacific-wide Invasives networks.	While national frameworks (NISSAP, NBSAP) were not advanced by SIG due to external constraints, the project supported provincial-level progress. Biosecurity priorities were agreed for integration into the Draft Renbel Resource Management & Environmental Protection Ordinance (2023), building on the endorsed Renbel Biosecurity Plan (Annex 5.7). A case study on the project (Annex 5.16) has been developed for wider sharing through BirdLife and regional networks.

Outcome Indicator 0.5 From Y2Q1, and annually thereafter, the LTWHSA is undertaking monitoring and reporting on ERWHS environmental indicators and site condition in accordance with the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan, informing participatory development, implementation and fundraising for updated LTWHSA Strategic Plan by mid-Y3.	The project strengthened LTWHSA's technical and institutional capacity through ranger training and collaborative planning. Key outcomes include LTWHSA's first Strategic Plan (Annex 5.10), formal reporting to government (Annex 5.12), and new partnerships (e.g. KGA). While LTWHSA remains in development, these steps support long-term sustainability and local leadership in rodent control and environmental monitoring within the ERWHS.
Outcome Indicator 0.6 Four ERWHS Women's Savings Clubs established & members registered with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) by end of Y3, with increased monthly savings of minimum 25% recorded at village level and equitable benefit sharing structures established in coordination with LTWHSA by EOP, as a contribution to sustaining the ERWHS (to be decided by Club members).	By project end, 4 Women's Savings Clubs were established and registered with MWYCFA, each with formal policies and savings targets. Training by local consultant Christina Nasiu used the proven Live & Learn SI guide. The clubs' equitable constitutions provide a foundation for future financial and technical support, enhancing women-led livelihoods and access to markets in East Rennell.
Output 1 Impact on agricultural yields and at-risk endemic biodiversity of a model for community-based rodent control in 4 ERWHS villages quantified, and community-level value of control understood.	
Output indicator 1.1 Community-based rodent control programme, including 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) and 7 indicator species (snails, Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove) for IAS impact assessment study, developed with the participation and agreement of the four ERWHS villages, by Y1Q2.	By the end of Year 1, community consultations in the four ERWHS villages led to the appointment of LTWHSA Chairman George Tauika as Local Project Coordinator and nomination of four Local Rangers. Communities understood and agreed to the rodent control program and designated treatment/control sites. The Rodent Suppression Operational Plan (Annex 5.2) was developed and presented, with subsequent training on GPS use and plot setup for the LPC and Rangers.
Output indicator 1.2. One 1km² rat treatment and an associated non-treatment ('control') plot, established at each of the four ERWHS villages with biodiversity baselines collated, and baselines for crop yields, socio-economic and wellbeing indicators at participating household level, collated Y1Q4.	Local Rangers established 1km² treatment and control plots in each village, collecting baseline ecological data on endemic snails, indicator birds, and crops using protocols in Annex 5.3. Training on rodent control and monitoring was provided by BLI experts. Baiting occurred May–July 2023, followed by monitoring. A socioeconomic baseline survey (Annex 5.4) conducted in August 2023 highlighted low village populations during data collection and revealed that wellbeing in communities is not closely linked to income.
Output indicator 1.3 Four rangers & minimum 40 ERWHS village members have technical capacity for rodent control implementation and associated crop and biodiversity impact monitoring by end of Y2.	From August 2023 to February 2025, Local Rangers submitted regular monitoring data on biodiversity and crops following established protocols. By project end, the four trained Rangers had also trained over 300 community members, including 120 women, demonstrating strong technical capacity and community engagement. Post-baiting monitoring shows reduced rodent activity and documented breeding of the Rennell Shrikebill via trail cameras.
Output indicator 1.4 Ecological and social importance of the ERWHS, and the climate and invasive species threats to these values, informed by results from monitoring of indicator species and agricultural crops; and contribute to	Rodent control results confirmed Black rats' significant threat to endemic species and crops. These findings were shared in community workshops, raising local awareness. In collaboration with the UNESCO National Commission (MEHRD), a Rennell bird pocket guide was developed as an educational tool, with a total of 400

environmental education materials for 1 Junior Secondary & 4 Primary Schools in East Rennell, by EOP.	copies to be distributed across the Junior Secondary and 4 Primary Schools in East Rennell.
Output indicator 1.5 Biodiversity and environmental education booklet for East Rennell schools, endorsed by Solomon Islands Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development by Y3Q4.	The Rennell Bird Pocket Guide, the island's first locally informed biodiversity education resource, has been produced and formally endorsed by the MEHRD (Annex 5.5), supporting local schools and educators.
Output Indicator 1.6 Results shared with ERWHS communities and integrated by LTWHSA into ERWHS Management Plan, with mechanism in place for oversight of ongoing rodent control, by EOP.	Biodiversity indicators from the Environmental Monitoring Plan are being integrated into the ERWHS Management Plan via the EREPA project, ensuring long-term alignment of conservation actions. Monitoring results have been shared nationally and locally, supporting sustained rodent control beyond the Darwin Initiative project.
Output 2. Rennell Island Biosecurity Plan, identifying all high-risk IAS pathways, completed, and adopted by Solomon Islands Government; and Province-wide awareness and capacity developed to monitor and respond to IAS incursions.	
Output indicator 2.1. Stakeholders critical to the development and implementation of the Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan identified and engaged by Y1Q4.	Discussions with the Solomon Islands Biosecurity Division highlighted limited technical capacity to extend biosecurity planning nationwide. At the August 2022 Project Inception Workshop, key stakeholders—including Biosecurity SI, Solomon Islands Maritime Authority, and Renbel Deputy Premier—were identified and agreed for engagement in biosecurity planning.
Output indicator 2.2. Renbel biosecurity plan (incorporating response to existing threats, e.g. Black rat and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, & future IAS incursions) drafted with stakeholder input, supported remotely and through 6 community biosecurity planning workshops, by end of Y2Q2.	Recruitment of a local Biosecurity Consultant was delayed due to competing national priorities, including the 2023 Pacific Games. Mr. Patteson Akipu was appointed in February 2024, leading to a compressed timeline and two biosecurity planning workshops (vs. six planned). The March 2024 Honiara workshop captured stakeholder priorities for the Renbel Biosecurity Plan (Annex 5.6), while the November 2024 Renbel Workshop at Tigoa Government Station reinforced domestic biosecurity priorities by identifying high-risk IAS pathways for Rennell and Bellona, and key capacity needs such as awareness, enforcement, and communication materials.
Output indicator 2.3 SI Government endorsement of Renbel Biosecurity Plan secured by end of Y2Q2.	A comprehensive Renbel Biosecurity Plan was developed by consultant Ms. Souad Boudjelas and formally endorsed by the Premier of Rennell Bellona Provincial Government in May 2025 (Annex 5.7).
Output indicator 2.4 150 people from 15 Rennell and Bellona communities &, at least, 30 Renbel Provincial officials, biosecurity, environment & other state & commercial mining, logging, maritime & airways sector representatives have the knowledge & capacity to implement the Renbel Biosecurity Plan by end of Y2Q3.	Thirty representatives from government, community, and private sectors across Rennell participated in biosecurity consultations, agreeing on key resolutions for BSI and the Renbel Provincial Government. Though Bellona was not represented due to logistics, feedback will be provided. Guidelines for identifying priority invasive species (Annex 8) have been shared, enhancing community knowledge and biosecurity capacity. BLI and BSI will collaborate to secure resources and provide training using the Biosecurity Plan as a framework.

Output indicator 2.5 By EOP, reports of new IAS sightings & response to incursions on Rennell Island have increased, against 2010-2020 baseline and Biosecurity SI records verify no new IAS established on Rennell from Y2Q3 to EOP.	Due to delayed recruitment of the Local Biosecurity Coordinator (Feb 2024), stakeholder workshops and training were postponed, with the final workshop held in November 2024. No new IAS incursions were reported by project end. The Renbel Biosecurity Plan and enhanced stakeholder capacity now provide mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and response, with Biosecurity Solomon Islands committed to continued surveillance post-project.
Output 3 Increased capacity of Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) to fulfil its role as local ERWHS management authority and inform/access benefits from the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme being developed for East Rennell (under complementary L&L project).	
Output Indicator 3.1 Institutional and individual member capacity needs of the LTWHSA identified and Capacity Development Plan/training plan developed collaboratively with LTWHSA and L&L, ensuring gender equity in line with new LTWHSA gender resolution, by Y1Q3.	Following an LTWHSA Capacity Needs Assessment (August 2023), a tailored Capacity Development Plan (Annex 5.9)was created and implemented. A Strategic Planning Workshop in March 2024, co-facilitated by BLI and Live & Learn SI, engaged all 12 Committee members—including 4 women—to develop the planning framework.
Output Indicator 3.2 LTWHSA Strategic Plan updated by end of Y2 and under implementation by EOP, in collaboration with project partners L&L and key stakeholders, including concurrent IUCN-led EREPA project seeking ERWHS PA designation.	A four-year LTWHSA Strategic Plan was finalized (Annex 5.10), detailing priorities for sustainable ERWHS management, livelihoods, capacity building, and partnership strengthening. The plan reflects the committee's growing governance maturity and consensus on East Rennell's future direction.
Output Indicator 3.3 By Y3Q3, 100% of LTWHSA Committee has completed the training agreed under the Capacity Development Plan (3.1), expected to include governance, project and financial management and fundraising, and has capacity to share training with newly elected committee members.	Training on administration, financial management, and fundraising was delivered to LTWHSA and LPC, including a session for female members to encourage engagement. Progress reports show improved financial accountability. Governance training in early 2024 led to the first LTWHSA Constitution review since 2009, incorporating women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, and was endorsed at the June 2024 AGM. New Committee elections enabled effective knowledge transfer, strengthening leadership capacity.
Output Indicator 3.4 ERWHS environmental monitoring plan developed, four rangers and coordinator trained, and annual monitoring completed by end of Y1, and annually thereafter to EOP.	The Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 5.11) guided training for Rangers on standardized protocols to monitor and control Black Rats within 1km² plots. Rangers also monitored key crops and endemic birds using established methods. By project end, Rangers demonstrated strong ecological monitoring skills, providing data critical for evaluating rodent control effectiveness at ERWHS.
Output Indicator 3.5 LTWHSA reporting the condition of ERWHS, including progress toward removing the site from the 'in Danger List' to the SI govt (Min Education) representative to UNESCO annually from Y2Q3.	LTWHSA's reporting quality improved significantly, demonstrated by two comprehensive State of Conservation Reports submitted to the UNESCO National Commission in February 2024 and February 2025 (Annex 5.12), contributing to national UNESCO World Heritage submissions.
Output 4 Long-term sustainability of rodent control outcomes supported through livelihood development and increased capacity of LTWHSA to access and coordinate community-level benefit sharing from PES and external funding sources.	

Output Indicator 4.1 10 women/ERWHS village invited to join a Women's Savings Club established with support from L&L in each ERWHS village, and baseline sales/income at village levels collated, and production targets agreed, by end of Y2.	The Savings Clubs engaged 120 women across four communities—three times the target. Formal agreements and operation guidelines were established. Starting from zero savings, women generated income and contributed regularly, supported by increased local cash flow from project activities. Clubs meet fortnightly to collect savings, strengthening community financial resilience.
Output Indicator 4.2 Minimum 50 men & women (max 80) from ERWHS villages trained in appropriate livelihood development, production & management by EOP .	LTWHSA partnered with the Kastom Garden Association (KGA) under UNESCO funding to enhance food security and income generation. KGA trained at least 20 people per village—including 50% women—in pilot model farms. Additionally, community members received weaving and crafting skills training from village elders
Output Indicator 4.3 Savings accruing collectively to each village Women's Club (4.1) and to individuals trained increased by minimum 25% (monthly) against baseline by EOP	Women's capacity and savings doubled (Annex 5.14). Hutuna Women's Savings Club saved over SBD $41,000 in 11 months, shared among 26 members, and funded 14 men's church conference travel. Niupani shared SBD $20,000 among 35 members after 6 months. Tegano and Tevaitahe clubs saved SBD $13,500 and $6,500 respectively but faced start-up delays and coordination issues.
Output Indicator 4.4 By end of Y3, LTWHSA has submitted (supported via the project) a minimum of two small-scale funding applications for bait supply to sustain rodent control beyond project end, and until PES income becomes available.	
Output Indicator 4.5 By end of Y3, LTWHSA has submitted (supported via the project) a minimum of two small-scale funding applications for bait supply to sustain rodent control beyond project end, and until PES income becomes available .	Despite delays in the PES scheme rollout, LTWHSA's capacity grew through involvement in the government-led EREPA project. In November 2023, LTWHSA led a learning visit to the first PES site at Babatana Rainforest, preparing communities for PES participation. Ongoing support includes training LTWHSA Rangers for monitoring, securing long-term conservation capacity.
Output 5 Knowledge at national level and amongst Pacific Islands' IAS management authorities on mitigation methods to reduce the impact of IAS, specifically Black rats, on livelihoods, expanded, through dissemination of Rennell Island Case Studies to SI Government stakeholders and via regional and global networks.	
Output Indicator 5.1 Communications Plan developed Y1Q4 identifying outreach for rat control, biosecurity, and livelihood interests for the project including the dissemination of associated control and biosecurity guidelines and models with an implementation timetable through to EOP.	The BLI Communications Plan has been regularly updated based on project progress and partner feedback. It supports the Renbel Biosecurity Plan through key products including educational materials (Annex 5.5), invasive species guidelines for GAS, CRB, YCA & LFA (Annex 5.8), and a Case Study (Annex 5.16), ensuring shared understanding among LTWHSA and partners.
Output Indicator 5.2 By EOP, biodiversity & environmental education booklet presented and disseminated to East Rennell communities and five schools .	In collaboration with Ms. Sophie Liligeto (UNESCO MEHRD) and LTWHSA, a Rennell Island Bird Pocket Guide was developed to raise awareness of native bird species and habitat protection. The guide will be distributed to all five East Rennell schools to foster biodiversity knowledge among youth and nurture future custodians of the ERWHS.

Output Indicator 5.3 By EOP, learning from ER rat control trials & Renbel Province biosecurity response integrated into SI National policies (NISSAP, NBSAP).	While national biosecurity policies (NISSAP, NBSAP) saw no progress during the project, the March 2024 Biosecurity Workshop in Honiara led to the inclusion of biosecurity priorities in the Rennell and Bellona Province Resource Management and Environmental Protection Ordinance Draft (2023). With Renbel Biosecurity Plan endorsement, these measures will be integrated locally, strengthening implementation.
Output Indicator 5.4 By EOP, case study on impacts/results of community control of introduced rodents on biodiversity and agriculture values at ERWHS presented to SI Biosecurity Division, Environment & Conservation Division, UNESCO Desk.	National coordination was strengthened through regular engagement with MECCDM, EREPA, LLSI, and MALB. The SOC Report to UNESCO (Annex 5.1) documents progress supporting ERWHS's potential removal from the 'In-Danger' list. Although data limitations restricted assessment of rodent control impacts on agriculture, reliable biodiversity data allowed a case study focus on biodiversity effects and overall community involvement (Annex 5.16). Further agricultural impact analysis is planned pending more robust data.
Output Indicator 5.5 By EOP, Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for Subsistence Farming Communities is being applied at sites in Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, the Cook Islands and Samoa and the project knowledge resources disseminated to (amongst others) SPREP, Pacific Invasive Battlers, Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP), BirdLife Partnership, and USP.	Although dissemination of key documents like the Rennell Rodent Control Case Study and Renbel Biosecurity Plan was delayed, these resources are now finalized and ready for sharing. Throughout the project, BLI and LTWHSA actively presented outcomes at regional forums—including SPREP's PRISMSS, Kiwa Initiative, and BirdLife Partnership meetings. These platforms will facilitate targeted dissemination to stakeholders such as SPREP, Pacific Invasive Battlers, PIP, BirdLife Partnership, and USP. All knowledge products will be made available online.

Annex 2: Project's Full Current Logframe as presented in the Application Form (Changes have been Agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: The biological and social sustainability of East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) is secured and contributes to fulfilment of Solomon Islands' CBD commitments, and achievement of National Development Strategy objectives.			
Outcome: Evidence base and enabling conditions for sustained IAS/rodent control in 4 ERWHS communities and Province-wide biosecurity established, contributing to food security, livelihood resilience, endemic biodiversity protection and national/regional IAS responses.	0.1 Damage to 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) by black rats quantified from Y2 and, by EOP, showing a 70% decrease, compared to baselines set at project inception, in 4 rat-controlled demonstration areas, compared to 4 areas with no rat control, contributing to food and/or livelihood security and improved wellbeing. 0.2 Impacts of black rats on 7 ERWHS indicator species (Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove and endemic snails) quantified to inform a revised ERWHS Management Plan and environmental monitoring program by Y3Q3. 0.3 Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan and IAS control protocols developed with local and national stakeholders by end of Y2 and 15 Renbel communities (c.3000 people, aged 15+) have capacity to implement it by EOP. 0.4 By EOP, National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) for the Solomon Islands is in place, and Project Case Study shared through established Pacific-wide Invasives networks. 0.5 From Y2Q1, and annually thereafter, the LTWHSA is undertaking monitoring and reporting on ERWHS environmental indicators and site condition in accordance with the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan, informing participatory development, implementation and fundraising for updated LTWHSA Strategic Plan by mid-Y3. 0.6 Four ERWHS Women's Savings Clubs established & members registered with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and	0.1 Rodent Control Plan (for confirmation of indicators); Agricultural monitoring data and reports (baseline, and quarterly Y2 & Y3); household livelihood impacts (in terms of income and/or subsistence crop benefits) and associated household wellbeing surveys (baseline, mid-term and EOP). 0.2 Biological monitoring data against baselines for selected indicator species as identified by biodiversity impact study (Post-graduate/Masters Student-led). IAS impact on biodiversity & management recommendations documented and shared with SI Environment & Conservation Division, for integration into Protected Area (PA) management planning processes, and revised ERWHS Management Plan. Monitoring Plan incorporated into updated ERWHS Management Plan. 0.3 SI Biosecurity Planning Workshop Reports (Y2) & Biosecurity Division-endorsed Renbel Biosecurity Plan. Community biosecurity training workshop (x3) reports; use/siting of IAS response guidelines (posters & leaflets) by communities for IAS surveillance & incursion reporting (from end of Y2); IAS reports to Renbel Provincial Office. 0.4 SI NISSAP, available at least as an advanced draft, if not fully published. Documented case studies on impacts of rodents on biodiversity & agriculture in the ERWHS. Documented model of community-supported biosecurity. Meeting reports, presentations of Case Study and model at	In assessing the impact of rat control on crop yields, the effect of weather conditions is accounted for by recording these and other agricultural production variables (such as use of fertilisers) in the rat control study. Drawing on Pacific experience, the combination of size of treatment area, spacing of bait stations and monthly bait replenishment can be expected to sustain a suppressed rat population at low/potentially non-detectable levels, with impact from rats immigrating into the area, expected to be contained within a 50-100m buffer. Reduction in damage to crops will result in higher yields which will translate into either higher cash income from sales of 'surplus' and/or reduction in proportion of household expenditure on non-home-grown food (dependent on household choice) and potentially an increase in discretionary time owing to the greater crop return on time invested in cultivation – contributing to sense of wellbeing. Community assessment of the value of these benefits from rat control, supports investment in sustained control in critical areas. Each plot (treatment & control) will hold virgin and regenerating forest and subsistence gardens, enabling assessment of rat control impact on biodiversity and livelihood interests, and comparative analysis of yields and bird breeding over 2-year period. These outcome indicators will provide an overall measure of rat control effectiveness, with concurrent measurement of rat activity (tracking, chew) helping to inform future management through corelation of rat activity and outcomes.

	Family Affairs (MWYCFA) by end of Y3, with increased monthly savings of minimum 25% recorded at village level and equitable benefit sharing structures established in coordination with LTWHSA by EOP, as a contribution to sustaining the ERWHS (to be decided by Club members).	Pacific Invasives Partnership & other regional IAS networks (see Output 5). 0.5 Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans for ERWHS; environmental monitoring and project reports submitted by LTWHSA. LTWHSA Strategic Plan; reports of Plan development workshops; LTWSHA meeting minutes and progress reports; fundraising plan and submitted funding applications. 0.6 Women's Club policy documents; reports on savings completed for each village Club at project inception (baseline) and annually to EOP.	National and regional air travel resumes unrestricted from latest Nov-2022, and quarantine entry conditions to the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Australia, do not exceed 7 days for each country from that time. While COVID situation remains uncertain, these assumptions are based on guidance/advice received from relevant in-country authorities and partners.
Output 1 Impact on agricultural yields and at-risk endemic biodiversity of a model for community-based rodent control in 4 ERWHS villages quantified, and community-level value of control understood.	1.1 Community-based rodent control programme, including 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) and 7 indicator species (snails, Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove) for IAS impact assessment study, developed with the participation and agreement of the four ERWHS villages, by Y1Q2. 1.2 One 1km² rat treatment and an associated non-treatment ('control') plot, established at each of the four ERWHS villages with biodiversity baselines collated, and baselines for crop yields, socio-economic and wellbeing indicators at participating household level, collated Y1Q4. 1.3 Four rangers & minimum 40 ERWHS village members have technical capacity for rodent control implementation and associated crop and biodiversity impact monitoring by end of Y2. 1.4 Ecological and social importance of the ERWHS, and the climate and invasive species threats to these values, informed by results from monitoring of indicator species and agricultural crops; and contribute to environmental education materials for 1 Junior Secondary & 4 Primary Schools in East Rennell, by EOP.	1.1 Rodent Control Operational and Monitoring Plan; Community Consultation Meeting(s) records/minutes. 1.2 Map of treatment and non-treatment sites. Baseline and quarterly reports & monitoring template for crop yield and biodiversity indicators. Household income and wellbeing survey report including baseline. 1.3 Training workshop report; Monthly monitoring data received (by BLI) from Y2Q1. 1.4 Quarterly data analysis and 6-monthly reporting, for species & agricultural crop indicators. 1.5 Peer-reviewed and approved environmental education booklet on biodiversity for schools in East Rennell.	LTWHSA continues to maintain the support of the four ERWHS communities for implementation of the rodent control over project timeframe. LTWHSA committee members, including women and youth representatives, are drawn from the villages, whose members have requested support to address rat impacts. Shipping and transportation networks to Rennell remain operational, enabling access to materials and supplies, in line with project implementation timetable. The training, and ongoing technical assistance, to Rangers is sufficient for the collection of monitoring data to the standards required and accessible for analysis. The training will be led by BirdLife and Eco-Oceania, both with considerable experience of building capacity in IAS control across Pacific communities. Two to five nests of each indicator bird species can be monitored within each research plot to assess rat impacts. The plots will be selected and agreed with villagers, based on mix of habitat suitable for indicator species. That a suitable and interested Master's Student can be selected in line with the project implementation timetable and demonstrates robust research skills in

	1.5 Biodiversity and environmental education booklet for East Rennell schools, endorsed by Solomon Islands Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development by Y3Q4. 1.6 Results shared with ERWHS communities and integrated by LTWHSA into ERWHS Management Plan, with mechanism in place for oversight of ongoing rodent control, by EOP.		carrying out the fieldwork and data analysis. Project partners, SINU and USP are confident of the attractiveness of the opportunity and availability of candidates, and, alongside BirdLife and Eco-Oceania, will provide regular support/guidance to ensure the validity of research results.
Output 2 Rennell Island Biosecurity Plan, identifying all high-risk IAS pathways, completed, and adopted by Solomon Islands Government; and Province-wide awareness and capacity developed to monitor and respond to IAS incursions.	2.1 Stakeholders critical to the development and implementation of the Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan identified and engaged by Y1Q4. 2.2 Renbel biosecurity plan (incorporating response to existing threats, e.g. Black rat and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, & future IAS incursions) drafted with stakeholder input, supported remotely and through 6 community biosecurity planning workshops, by end of Y2Q2. 2.3 SI Government endorsement of Renbel Biosecurity Plan secured by end of Y2Q2. 2.4 150 people from 15 Rennell and Bellona communities &, at least, 30 Renbel Provincial officials, biosecurity, environment & other state & commercial mining, logging, maritime & airways sector representatives have the knowledge & capacity to implement the Renbel Biosecurity Plan by end of Y2Q3. 2.5 By EOP, reports of new IAS sightings & response to incursions on Rennell Island have increased, against 2010-2020 baseline and Biosecurity SI records verify no new IAS established on Rennell from Y2Q3 to EOP.	2.1 Stakeholder Analysis Report/List; Stakeholder contacts established (email group); and document outlining scope of Renbel Biosecurity Plan circulated and agreed. 2.2 Reports from biosecurity planning workshops; draft Renbel Biosecurity Plan; documented stakeholder feedback on the Plan. 2.3 Final government-endorsed Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan; formal record of Biosecurity Plan approval by SIG; meeting records. 2.4 Biosecurity training materials (IAS identification, surveillance, reporting and response procedures); training workshop reports & pre-post training surveys; Guidelines shared on managing harmful threats established on Rennell e.g. CRB, and Black rats; Renbel Province biosecurity awareness & communications plan; biosecurity information and awareness materials including entry point biosecurity signs, posters, media articles and transportation service passenger information. 2.5 Records of (new) IAS sightings for Renbel reported to LTWHSA, Renbel Provincial office and SI Biosecurity (as relevant). Biosecurity SI records of incursion responses from Y2Q3.	SI Government continue to support the project and the integration of biosecurity measures needed to protect biodiversity and quality of life (from IAS) on Rennell and Bellona Islands and in scaling up the model developed and associated lessons to other Provinces in the SI. Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI), the mandated government authority for IAS management, has expressed strong support for the project and welcomed its contribution, alongside BirdLife expertise, in drawing up the NISSAP. Rennell commercial sector (logging, mining, and shipping companies) remain supportive of engaging in biosecurity for the island and implement the procedures developed and agreed with them. Domestic shipping is state run, with biosecurity responsibilities mandated by the BSI, providing confidence in compliance. Earlier conversations with the principal logging enterprise at the time of the IAS survey, indicated that they were supportive at that time, but more generally and tangibly, SIG/BSI's jurisdiction over the biosecurity measures will support monitoring and compliance.
Output 3 Increased capacity of Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) to fulfil	3.1 Institutional and individual member capacity needs of the LTWHSA identified and Capacity Development Plan/training plan developed collaboratively with LTWHSA and	3.1 Capacity Needs Assessment report; Capacity Development Plan; LTWHSA	The institutional and individual knowledge and capacity built by the project will be sustained and continue to be utilised in support of ERWHS management. People on

its role as local ERWHS management authority and inform/access benefits from the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme being developed for East Rennell (under complementary L&L project).	L&L, ensuring gender equity in line with new LTWHSA gender resolution, by Y1Q3. 3.2 LTWHSA Strategic Plan updated by end of Y2 and under implementation by EOP, in collaboration with project partners L&L and key stakeholders, including concurrent IUCN-led EREPA project seeking ERWHS PA designation. 3.3 By Y3Q3, 100% of LTWHSA Committee has completed the training agreed under the Capacity Development Plan (3.1), expected to include governance, project and financial management and fundraising, and has capacity to share training with newly elected committee members. 3.4 ERWHS environmental monitoring plan developed, four rangers and coordinator trained, and annual monitoring completed by end of Y1, and annually thereafter to EOP. 3.5 LTWHSA reporting the condition of ERWHS, including progress toward removing the site from the 'in Danger List' to the SI govt (Min Education) representative to UNESCO annually from Y2Q3.	meeting and Plan development workshop reports. 3.2 LTWHSA Strategic Plan; Plan development workshop report. 3.3 Training workshop reports; Training Evaluation Forms; quarterly project financial & technical progress reports submitted by LTWHSA; funding plan for ERWHS. 3.4 ERWHS Monitoring Plan/Protocols (document) and Monitoring Reports submitted by LTWHSA rangers. 3.5 LTWHSA condition reports to SIG.	the LTWHSA are from the local communities and are well placed to cascade the knowledge gained from the project, reinforced by the rat control, biosecurity, governance, and other reference materials developed. Monitoring and condition reporting in line with plan developed under the project, will be sustained beyond the EOP. The SI Government make an annual financial contribution to the ERWHS in accordance with the strategic plan. Condition monitoring and reporting is one of these priorities and the capacity to sustain this is further strengthened by the development of a PES scheme for ERWHS (L&L project) – providing a direct link between community income and monitoring.
Output 4 Long-term sustainability of rodent control outcomes supported through livelihood development and increased capacity of LTWHSA to access and coordinate community-level benefit sharing from PES and external funding sources.	4.1 10 women/ERWHS village invited to join a Women's Savings Club established with support from L&L in each ERWHS village, and baseline sales/income at village levels collated, and production targets agreed, by end of Y2. 4.2 Minimum 50 men & women (max 80) from ERWHS villages trained in appropriate livelihood development, production & management by EOP. 4.3 Savings accruing collectively to each village Women's Club (4.1) and to individuals trained increased by minimum 25% (monthly) against baseline by EOP. 4.4 By end of Y3, LTWHSA has submitted (supported via the project) a minimum of two small-scale funding applications for bait supply to sustain rodent	4.1 Formal agreement documents & policies for the operation of the four Women's Clubs; records of membership; meetings reports documenting agreed savings target; baseline income report. 4.2 Records of training materials; reports and evaluations from training workshops led by LTWHSA. 4.3 Survey and record of savings and income (at combined village level) at project outset (baseline), annually and EOP. 4.4 Fundraising proposals. 4.5 Workshop/work planning reports by L&L SI; reports from PES planning workshops; documented community consultation responses.	LTWHSA and ERWHS communities value the benefits from the rodent control and IAS management program sufficiently to sustain rat control & biosecurity. The need for the rat control has been identified, and support requested, by these communities. Capacity building and support for short-term fundraising to sustain the controls (alongside any community investment agreed – entirely at their discretion - from increased handicraft and crop sales) pending availability of PES finance, will help mitigate the risk to sustainability. Annual cost of bait to sustain rat control over 400ha is c.11,000GBP. (Use of crop and handicraft income is entirely the community's decision and it is not a project expectation that it will all be directed towards ongoing rat control, however, for context, the estimated increase in handicraft income at

	control beyond project end, and until PES income becomes available. 4.5 LTWHSA actively engaging in development of PES scheme for East Rennell, from end of Y2 and have the capacity to administer the scheme and coordinate community-level benefit sharing by EOP.		community level based on current average earnings & growth target is 13,000 GBP) Income projection from handicraft sales growth is based on reputation and distinctiveness of RenBel handicrafts and access via SIHA to markets/trading in Honiara, alongside Renbel markets. SIHA survey estimated that c.90% of handicraft sales are domestic (not tourism-dependent). Capacity built under the project will position the communities to capitalise, longer-term, on plans for a new market near the Tingoa airstrip on Rennell and SI's hosting of South Pacific Games in 2023.
Output 5 Knowledge at national level and amongst Pacific Islands' IAS management authorities on mitigation methods to reduce the impact of IAS, specifically Black rats, on livelihoods, expanded, through dissemination of Rennell Island Case Studies to SI Government stakeholders and via regional and global networks.	5.1. Communications Plan developed Y1Q4 identifying outreach for rat control, biosecurity, and livelihood interests for the project including the dissemination of associated control and biosecurity guidelines and models with an implementation timetable through to EOP. 5.2. By EOP, biodiversity & environmental education booklet presented and disseminated to East Rennell communities and five schools . 5.3. By EOP, learning from ER rat control trials & Renbel Province biosecurity response integrated into SI National policies (NISSAP, NBSAP). 5.4. By EOP, case study on impacts/results of community control of introduced rodents on biodiversity and agriculture values at ERWHS presented to SI Biosecurity Division, Environment & Conservation Division, UNESCO Desk. 5.5. By EOP, Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for Subsistence Farming Communities is being applied at sites in Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, the Cook Islands and Samoa and the project knowledge resources disseminated to (amongst others) SPREP, Pacific Invasive Battlers, Pacific	5.1. Communications Plan; Published case study; communications materials (including printed documents; presentation visuals; video) 5.2. Presentation materials; report of meetings; dissemination schedules and attendance. 5.3. NBSAP Implementation Plan and NISSAP contain Renbel and ERWHS IAS and biodiversity conservation priorities. 5.4. Presentation materials; meeting reports; national stakeholder feedback indicating how results will be used. 5.5. Steering Committee, meeting, and workshop reports; presentation materials and schedules; documented responses.	Biosecurity SI prioritise replication of the Renbel Biosecurity Model in other provinces. The NISSAP is completed and recognises biosecurity priorities for RenBel and nationally. Financing is in place for developing a NISSAP (GEF) and the process has commenced. Government agencies also understand the threats posed by IAS to biodiversity, livelihoods and well-being and BirdLife has been invited to assist the planning process (and share the results from this project). Trial provides results and positive impact that can be replicated/used to inform interventions in subsistence farming communities elsewhere in the SI and wider Pacific. In the event that results are inconclusive, or no agriculture/ livelihood benefits are recorded, this will still provide a valuable benchmark for rat control to subsistence communities and in being widely shared by the project is available for others to learn from and build on. Moreover, the knowledge gained of Black rat effects on Rennell endemics will inform management priorities (for rats) in protecting the ERWHS biodiversity and signal future research needs.

	Invasive Partnership (PIP), BirdLife Partnership, and USP.		

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

1.1. Project partner Inception Workshop (virtual July). LTWHSA and partner supported community consultation - present control program, confirm treatment and non-treatment locations, verify monitoring indicators (externally assisted Nov), source socioeconomic info associated with crop production and rat effects ensuring gender & social equity (externally assisted Nov).
1.2. Formalise National Project Coordinator appointment (virtual Jul-Aug); Recruit Master's Student (virtual Jul-Aug); 4 LTWHSA Rangers and confirm process for selecting community support ensuring gender & social equity (virtual Aug).
1.3. Procurement and delivery of equipment & supplies for rodent control program.
1.4. Prepare expert peer-reviewed Rodent Control Operational & Monitoring Plan (bring forward to Q2); Rangers (4), Coordinator (1) and community members (40) trained (training and on-ground op estb. in Jan-Feb 2023) and technically supported in the implementation control and monitoring at treatment & non-treatment sites and data collated and shared monthly for each of the 4 ERWHS sites.
1.5. BirdLife to analyse and report biodiversity and socio-economic results to project stakeholders.
1.6. USP Master's student research implemented, field data collected, and results inform agriculture and biodiversity case studies and learning.

2.1. Renbel Province biosecurity stakeholders identified and engaged in biosecurity planning process. Agree on plan scope and timelines; draft Renbel Biosecurity Plan developed through stakeholder consultation and finalised & endorsed by SIG.
2.2. Biosecurity training workshops held with Rennell & Bellona communities, SIG, commercial mining, logging, maritime and airways sectors.
2.3. Biosecurity communications plan (linked to 5.2) developed, and posters, transportation advisory and broadcasting information, IAS identification services & popular communications produced in support of IAS identification, detection & response procedures for ERWHS and Renbel Province.
2.4. Biosecurity surveillance, identification, reporting and response procedures actioned by stakeholders (in accordance with Renbel Biosecurity Plan), compliance monitored, and the effectiveness of the biosecurity process evaluated, informing a model for replication.

3.1. BL & L&L SI conduct community participatory workshop to assess LTWHSA capacity needs and identify existing training and resource materials that can be adapted.
3.2. Develop LTWHSA Capacity Development Plan, targets and outcomes and implement priorities (including project and financial management and grant development).
3.3. LTWHA environmental monitoring plan developed, Rangers (4), Coordinator (1), SI Live & Learn personnel trained and collecting monitoring indicators, and reporting results annually to SIG. Finalise Plan with inputs from rat trials.
3.4. Evaluate LTWHSA capacity development using 'Kirkpatrick' type evaluation model.
3.5. Conduct LTWHSA strategic planning workshop and develop LTWHSA Strategic Plan.

4.1. Conduct baseline survey of handicraft production and assess development needs ensuring gender equity.
4.2. Establish Women's Savings Clubs, develop benefit sharing agreements, including production targets, and conduct handicraft workshops at the ERWHS.
4.3. Analyse & report on handicraft income and contribution to social and environmental outcomes for the ERWHS vs baseline.
4.4. LTWHSA submit at least 2 grant applications with BirdLife assistance.
4.5. LTWHSA contribute to identifying ERWHS landownership agreement and development of a PES business model.

5.1. Establish Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting with project partners and convene 6-monthly meetings to review progress, recommend adjustments and share results.
5.2. Communications plan developed for the dissemination of rodent control case studies, biosecurity model and associated knowledge products to national, regional and global audiences.
5.3. Scoping, documentation and dissemination of Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study (agriculture and biodiversity) and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for subsistence farming communities.
5.4. Results from the ER rat control, research, Renbel biosecurity, capacity building and outcomes for women contribute to national policies (NISSAP, climate adaptation plan and NBSAP) and are shared through Solomon Island forums including SINU (and USP) lectures; Regionally, PILN network, PRISMSS and other information sharing networks including the BirdLife Partnership.

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators ***Note: The country for all listed indicators is Solomon Islands (therefore not specifically listed in Disaggregation).***

DI Indicator number	Name of Indicator	Project Indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total Achieved	Total Planned
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured & relevant training	1.3	Number of People	Men (IPLC)	30	100	50	180	Minimum 40
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured & relevant training	1.3	Number of People	Women (IPLC)	0	60	60	120	Minimum 40
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity.	3.3	Number Of Organisations	Local (IPLC)	0	1	1	1	1
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	1.3	Number of People	Men (IPLC)	30	100	50	180	Minimum 40
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	1..3	Number of People	Women (IPLC)	0	60	60	120	Minimum 40
DI-AO5	Number of trainers trained under the project reported to have delivered further training.	1.3	Number of People	Men (IPLC)	8	8	8	8	4
DI-A06	Number of people with improved access to services/infrastructure for improved well-being.	4.3	Number of people	Women (IPLC)	0	80	120	120	40
DI-A07	Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	5.4	Number of govt institutions	National (Agriculture, Biosecurity, Environment)	1	2	3	3	3
DI-B01	Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	2.3	Number of plans	New	0	0	1	1	1
DI-B03	Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed	0.5	Number of plans	New	1	1	0	2	2
DI-B05	Number of people with increased participation in governance	3.2	Number of people	Men (IPLC)	8	8	0	8	8
DI-B05	Number of people with increased participation in governance	3.2	Number of people	Women (IPLC)	4	4	0	4	4

DI Indicator number	Name of Indicator	Project Indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total Achieved	Total Planned
DI-B07	Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended	0.4	Number of instruments	Type: Provincial Ordinance (reviewed)	0	0	1	1	0
DI-CO1	Number of best practice guides & knowledge products endorsed	5.5	Number	Language (English, Rennellese)	0	2	3	5	3
DI-DO1a	Area under Sustainable Management Practices	1.2	Number of hectares	Management Type: rodent suppression	400	400	400	400	400
DI-C10	Number of decision-makers attending briefing events	0.3, 1.6, 2.4, 4.5, 5.4	Number of people	Men (IPLC)	10	12	2	10	10
DI-DO3	Number of people with enhanced livelihoods	4.3	Number of people	Women (IPLC) Sector: Business	0	80	120	120	40
DI-DO4	Number of people with enhanced wellbeing	0.1, 0.6, 2.4, 4.5	Number of people	Men (IPLC) Women (IPLC)	80 50	150 60	270 120	500	800
DI-D05a	Number of people better supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change	0.1, 0.3, 1.1, 1.4, 2.4	Number of people	Men (IPLC) Women (IPLC)	80 50	150 60	270 120	500	800
DI-DO7	Number of threatened species with improving conservation status	0.2	Number of taxa	Animalia (Aves/Birds)	1	1	1	1	1

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Checklist for Submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	√
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	√
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, **do these meet the outlined requirements** (see section 14)?	√
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	√
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	√
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	√
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	√
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	