

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/11/022
Project Title	Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP
Country(ies)	Fiji
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	University of the South Pacific
Report date	31 October 2004 (Reporting period = 1 April-1 October 2004)
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	3
Project website	n/a

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The Training and Supervision Coordinator spent 9 weeks working, instead of the 14 weeks in the project workplan, because of other work opportunities and commitments: *3 weeks work-planning and report-writing (completed). 3 weeks fieldwork (completed). 1 week Pacific Round Table for Nature Conservation (delegated to a colleague). 1 week assessment and planning (completed). 6 weeks completing outstanding written tasks (1 week only: spent on newsletter and awareness materials). 1 week was spent pursuing a cofinance opportunity (RHNP).* The balance of 5 weeks work on completing outstanding written tasks will be completed during Sep-March 2005. The main outputs include:

- Work-planning, handing over admin responsibilities and training for EC Programme Manager to take over project admin and supervision
- 3 weeks field training on new islands (with new species): Vanua Levu, Ovalau and Kadavu
- First project newsletter produced
- Lecture prepared and given to post-graduate course at University of South Pacific

The National Coordinator and the Assistant planned to spend 1 week in three on fieldwork, the remainder on other office-based project activities. They achieved:

- 8 fieldwork visits (10 were planned) totalling 33 days
- 24 man-days of training of local government and community representatives (30 were planned)
- 8 community / local government awareness presentations to a total of 136 people (10 presentations were planned).

The slippage of 2 fieldwork visits and related training and presentations was caused by a number of factors, notably rain and floods, and recruitment and office induction of the new Project Assistant.

- 4 printed media articles (10 were planned). Three other press releases were researched and circulated but not taken up by the national newspapers.
- 1 TV programme but no radio programmes (three were planned). An educational programme was prepared for the national radio but they demanded \$4000 payment rather than broadcasting it for free.
- 1 English and 1 Fijian language leaflet produced
- Lecture prepared and given to undergraduate course at University of South Pacific

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The Training and Supervision Coordinator could only work for 9 of the planned 14 weeks. These extra weeks will be worked in the second half of this financial year and used to catch up on the overdue written outputs.

The Project Assistant, Timoci Guanavinaka, resigned on 16 June and was replaced by Lisa Dakuna on 2 August. We welcome Lisa and are encouraged by her skills and enthusiasm, and trust that Tim will use his new-found skills in his future work with the Ramsar Bureau and Wetlands International. However, we note that the training needs and the lost month has hindered progress. The funds saved from 6 weeks without a assistant will be carried forward to enable Lisa to stay with the project for 6 weeks after 31 March 2005. We noted in the last six-monthly report that “Finding qualified staff has been, and looks set to continue to be, a major limiting factor for this project and any terrestrial conservation work in Fiji”. This remains true.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

The carry-forward of the Training and Supervisor’s time has been noted in a revised workplan submitted in October 2004, in response to feedback on the last annual report received in Sep 2004.

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3 Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin’s management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

A number of issues are under discussion with through our response to feedback on the last annual report and we hope that these can be fully resolved before or during the forthcoming mid-term evaluation.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year’s annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

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