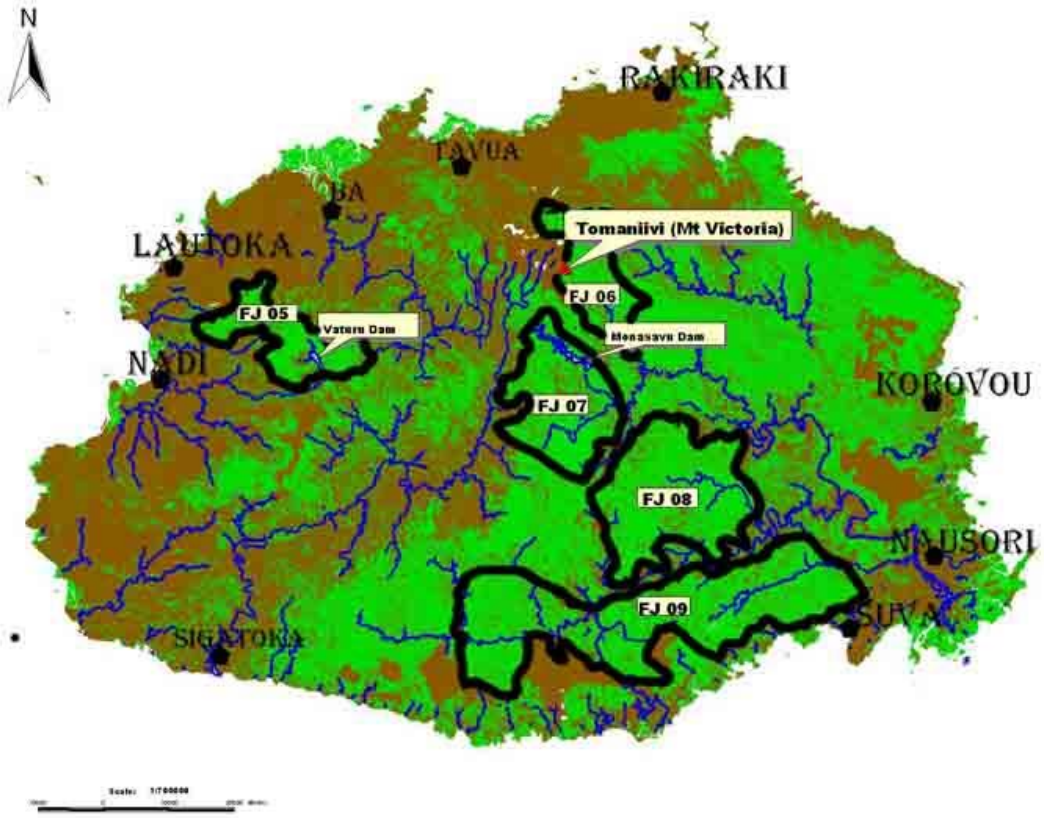
Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP

2002-2005 Final report to the Darwin Initiative



Map of sites identified on Viti Levu island –
five sites (FJ05-FJ09) overlaid on a forest-cover map

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Darwin Initiative

Final Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference No.	162/11/022
Project title	Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP
Country	Fiji
UK Contractor	BirdLife International
Partner Organisation (s)	BirdLife International Fiji Programme (=BirdLife) and Institute of Applied Sciences, University of the South Pacific (=USP)
Darwin Grant Value	£131,064
Start/End date	August 2002- August 2005
Project website	www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/pacific_ibas/fiji
Author(s), date	Guy Dutson (editor), Lincoln Fishpool and Vilikesa Masibalavu November 2005.

2. Project Background/Rationale

The project covers the whole land area of the Republic of the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific. Fiji has a large number of endemic and threatened species, notably forest birds. In particular, 11 species of endemic forest birds are classified as Globally Threatened on the IUCN/BirdLife Red List. Fiji came out as the highest priority country for biodiversity conservation in the CEPF Micronesia-Polynesia hotspot profile which analysed regional terrestrial conservation priorities. It is a priority country because of its many threatened and endemic species, the potential to conserve large areas of remaining forest, and the lack of significant ongoing terrestrial conservation work. The lack of action is a result of poor awareness, resources and capacity.

It should be noted that Fiji is a small nation with limited financial resources for conservation. Like other island nations, its economic potential is hindered by its small population, limited industrial base and isolation from markets. Fortunately, it lacks the absolute poverty of many nations, but this restricts its access to many development funds. Fijians' limited awareness of conservation and sustainable development is perhaps a consequence of the apparent abundance of forest and natural resources. Whilst many people see no problems as native old-growth forest still covers about 45% of the nation, birds are currently becoming more threatened (the Red-throated Lorikeet may even have become extinct during the lifetime of this project) and environmental impacts such as flooding appear to be more common. Moreover, it is much more effective to plan and enact landscape-level planning and large protected areas when there is still extensive forest. Finally, technical capacity is a big issue in a country with very few nationals with post-graduate qualifications in subjects relevant to terrestrial biodiversity conservation. It should be noted that

Fiji is much more advanced in the area of marine conservation, probably because marine resources are currently more closely affecting livelihoods of rural communities and the Fijian economy.

Fiji's biodiversity conservation needs are documented in its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The project purpose and outputs were designed to address a number of NBSAP activities which Fiji would otherwise lack the technical skills and resources to achieve. The main technical aim of the project was to assist the first project brief in its NBSAP: 'Development of sites of national significance system'. The project also had the over-arching aims of assisting with awareness, capacity-building and resource mobilisation.

The project concept was devised by BirdLife International in conjunction with Dr Dick Watling, author of many of the technical biodiversity sections of the NBSAP, and Professor Bill Aalbersberg, Director of the Institute of Applied Sciences and a leader in previous Darwin projects. Further input was provided by the Director of the National Trust of Fiji and the NBSAP coordinator at the Department of the Environment. These partners demonstrated their commitment by offering their time on the Project Steering Committee and other project needs, and seconding staff to join fieldwork surveys. The BSAP needs were combined with the opportunities offered by BirdLife International and various donors' needs. The project concept used BirdLife's successful 'Important Bird Area' process to identify a subset of Fiji's Sites of National Significance – those of global significance for their birds and, by extension, their wider terrestrial biodiversity.

The project used threatened and endemic birds such as this Pink-billed Parrotfinch as indicators to identify which sites were globally important for biodiversity conservation.

Logging to poor environmental standards is a major threat to Fiji's biodiversity. Past and planned logging was used as a secondary indicator for identifying sites.

3. Project Summary

The log-frame was changed during the project as recommended by the ECTF reviewers. Both the original and the revised log-frames are included in Appendix V. This final report is reporting against the revised log-frame. The project purpose and outputs were re-worded as part of the log-frame revision. One of the main changes was to expand the detail given in the outputs, which were originally shortened to fit the small boxes on the template. The original and final versions of the purpose and outputs are both given here:

Project Purpose:

Original: National registers identify sites of global importance for biodiversity conservation in Fiji (and other Pacific islands), and advocate site action through NBSAPs and follow-up projects.

Revised: An "Important Bird Areas in Fiji" directory identifies sites of global biodiversity conservation importance, and is used to advocate action at the highest-priority sites[1]

Project Outputs:

Original:

- Technical capacity of national institutions is built
- Biodiversity value and conservation potential of sites of possible importance are researched in field visits
- Sites of global biodiversity importance are identified and communicated
- National awareness is raised
- Resources are mobilised to enable long-term site-based biodiversity conservation

Revised:

- Technical knowledge and ability to access advice on bird and biodiversity conservation is built within national conservation organisations (especially BirdLife Fiji, government and University of the South Pacific), and local land-owning communities
- A directory of sites of global importance for bird conservation and other terrestrial biodiversity is published, disseminated and advocated to national and local audiences
- Increased awareness of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation amongst national stakeholders (notably policy-makers) and local stakeholders (notably land-owners)
- Funds mobilised to support site-based biodiversity conservation at key sites identified by this project

The changes made to the log-frame were largely presentational changes to facilitate better communication of the project – no significant changes were made to the project's objectives or operational plan. However, the project was designed to benefit from a system of adaptive management and to be enhanced from lessons learned. Recommended changes were submitted as part of each annual report. The most significant changes were:

[1] The directory will cover all terrestrial sites that can be identified using birds, and will discuss the issues specific to Fiji related to birds as indicators and identifying other sites using other taxonomic groups. Highest-priority sites will be identified by in-country discussion and consensus based on both biodiversity conservation importance, threats, and socio-political needs and opportunuties.

- The proposed outputs were adjusted to be more realistic in the given conditions. Technical training and national awareness targets were reduced to enable more time to be spent working with land-owning communities and fund-raising. Outputs were all discussed, and targets agreed, by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- Increased time input from UK (or other professional technical) staff. This was addressed by successfully fund-raising for more UK staff time and mobilising volunteers.

It was not always clear whether these changes, proposed in annual reports and correspondence with the ECTF reviewers, were approved by the Darwin Secretariat (see Section 10).

The following Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) best describe the project:

- 7. Identification and Monitoring (50%)
- 6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use (15%)
- 8. In-situ Conservation (10%)
- 10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity (10%)
- 12. Research and Training (8%)
- 13. Public Education and Awareness (5%)
- 17. Exchange of Information (2%)

The project has very successfully achieved its purpose and objectives, as assessed against the indicators in the revised log-frame:

Indicator for Project Purpose:

- *Conservation action or project development initiated at 3 of the top 4 priority sites by the end of the project*

Achieved. Follow-up project is active at four sites and partner organisations are active at another two sites, these being six of the top seven priority sites.

Indicators for Output 1:

- *Three Fijians attain professional bird conservation survey skills and undertake independent surveys by end of project*

Achieved. (Vilikesa Masibalavu of BirdLife, Alifereti Naikatini of USP and Sainivalati Vido of Dept Forestry).

- *At least 50 personnel from other institutions receive some training by project*
- *At least 50 community participants receive some training by project*

(Over-) achieved. 135 Fijians received at least 1 week of training. (Technical and land-owner trainees combined in Appendix II Outputs.)

Indicators for Output 2:

- *Launch of directory*

Unfortunately, this has been delayed to January 2006 after delays in producing the maps in-country, having the text reviewed in-country and the need to avoid end-of-year launches.

- *At least 50 directories distributed to 30 institutions / departments / villages in Fiji*

300 copies of the directory have been ordered and BirdLife's ongoing project work at key sites will ensure efficient distribution.

- *Number of sites visited*

43 sites were visited, most for week-long field research visits.

Indicators for Output 3:

- *At least 5 land-owning communities seek the project's help to develop site-based conservation projects by end of project*

(Over-) achieved. However, the project only had the resources to follow-up with site-based conservation at the four sites funded by the RNHP follow-up project.

- *Number of articles in national media*

(Under-) achieved. 15 media releases were circulated around the papers but not all were published. 6 radio and 5 TV programmes were broadcast.

- *Number of presentations given by project*
- *Number of participants at project presentations*

(Over-) achieved. 63 community presentations were given to 4 - 50 Fijian participants. 10 technical presentations were given to government and other technical collaborators. Three follow-up project development workshops were held for 50, 76 and 107 local stakeholders. Three conferences were organised: BirdLife Pacific Partnership meeting 2003 (49 participants x 1 week), BSAP workshop (45 participants x 1 day) 2004 and BirdLife Pacific Partnership / SPREP conference 2005 (40 participants x 5 days, including a Fiji IBAs presentation with another 12 Fijian participants) and presentations were given at many of the 13 conferences attended.

Indicators for Output 4:

- *Funds mobilised to support at least one site-based conservation project by end of project*
- *Funds mobilised to support at least one additional year of project development and fund-raising*

(Over-) achieved. An EC grant and extra BirdLife International funds will support a Technical Advisor for at least two years, primarily for project development and fund-raising. An Australian government (RNHP) grant will support 12 months of site-based conservation work at four sites.

4. Scientific, Training, and Technical Assessment

The project staff inputs comprised the following British staff:

- Guy Dutson, Training Coordinator, 50% time
- Lincoln Fishpool, Project Leader, about 8% time
- Other BirdLife International Secretariat technical staff (Gary Allport, Marco Lambertini, Adrian Long, Chris Mills, Martin Sneary), combined total input equivalent to about 10% of one person's time throughout the three-year project
- Digger Jackson, Sophie Lake and Durwyn Liley, RSPB volunteers, totalling about 25% time equivalent
- Other technical input from various institutions, totalling about 1% time equivalent

and Fijian staff:

- Vilikesa Masibalavu, National Coordinator, 100% time
- Betani Salusalu, Timoci Gaunavinaka and Lisa Dakuna, National Assistants, totalling about 90% time
- Alifereti Naikatini, Project Researcher, about 25% time
- Dick Watling, Project Partner, about 10% time
- Bill Aalbersberg, Project Partner, about 5% time
- Other technical input from various departments and NGOs, totalling about 5% time

The project also benefited from some time from the following EC project staff:

- Don Stewart, Pacific Programme Manager
- Naveena Sebastian and Nirmala Chand, Finance and Office Managers

The research methodology was designed in Fiji, based on BirdLife International's widely accepted 'Important Bird Area' methodology. The IBA methods have been endorsed by a wide range of institutions including the European Community, World Bank and Ramsar Convention.

Mid-term review of technical methods:

> *"The technical methodology applied by the project* **is excellent** *and one of* **the real strengths of this project**. *The international status of the IBA process has provided an objective process to identify sites of international importance for conservation of biodiversity. This is the main area that Birdlife International adds value to the project and more widely to conservation of biodiversity in Fiji. Discussions with local stakeholders during the field visit to the Sovi Basin illustrated that community members understood that birds are used as indicator species for terrestrial biodiversity. This is probably helped by the cultural significance of birds in many communities where they enjoy the status of Totem species."*

The generic IBA methods were adapted for Fiji based on the experience of the project partners and staff, other expert opinion including the Project Steering Committee, and learning from the project's work and lessons. The project first prepared a candidate list of sites, or "potential IBAs" based on data on birds and suitable habitat, notably the Fiji "forest function" maps which show forest cover and proposed land-use. This candidate list was based on a review of all published and unpublished literature on birds, key conservation areas and remaining habitat, and was discussed with local experts in meetings and workshops, and with external experts by correspondence. Bird species lists were prepared for each potential IBA, and field surveys were conducted at those sites for which there was inadequate recent bird data (all except Rotuma, Koroyanitu and Ogea). Field surveys included quantitative assessments of bird species abundance following standardised methods and entered onto a custom-built spreadsheet, opportunistic observations of other vertebrates and birds outside these hours, specific searches for globally threatened bird species, tape-recording of bird vocalisations, and collecting basic socio-political data, including assessments of threats and community attitudes to conservation. Standardised rat-rapping was undertaken on small islands and also a number of large-island sites for training. Even a three-year fieldwork project gave insufficient time to visit all potential IBAs, or to survey any site exhaustively. A network of sites qualifying as IBAs was proposed, checked by BirdLife International Secretariat staff, and then presented and discussed at a participatory workshop in Fiji. Training, awareness and advocacy were integrated into all work.

The Darwin project staff tried to maximise their time in the field, either researching, training or raising awareness, but were often frustrated by the administrative demands of project management. Across the entire project, almost one week in three was spent in the field (including travel and fieldwork) – 43 formal site visits, mostly week-long, were made and reported. Office weeks were largely spent writing-up and organising field trips, organising and participating in presentations and other awareness and advocacy opportunities, and fund-raising.

Technical fieldwork training contributed to the project outputs of research and training, and laid the foundations for awareness and conservation work. Here, the National Project Coordinator, Vilikesa Masibalavu, demonstrates sound-recording methods.

The key adaptations and innovations made to the generic IBA methods, included:

- Design and use of a spreadsheet to calculate standardised encounter rates (Excel spreadsheet sent with emailed report)

Lesson: staff were more motivated to complete a spreadsheet rather than sheets of paper

- Capacity-building and awareness integrated into project proposal

Lesson: more time was needed for these components which were achieved to lower standards than if they had been the sole or primary objectives

- Fieldwork included basic socio-political fieldwork

Lesson: the basic unstructured methods were successful for assessing basic attitudes to conservation and initiating links for follow-up work, but not for research or monitoring

- Fieldwork included specific surveys to update assessments of globally threatened species

Lesson: base-line surveys of key species could have been made explicit in the project proposal

- IBA boundaries are indicative; it was not considered a good use of time researching, discussing and agreeing exact boundaries with government and land-owners until funded follow-up options were available

Lesson: precise demarcated boundaries can be contentious and indicative boundaries more expedient and functional in the short-term

- Secondary criteria were developed to help choose between the many forest sites which technically qualify as IBAs for their globally threatened and restricted-range species

Lesson: results are most useful and applied when they include socio-economic and other practical factors

These methodological adaptations and lessons have been subject to peer review by conservation practitioners in Fiji, notably the Project Steering Committee, but not subject to any critical appraisal. A summary is published in the IBA directory.

The technical research highlights include:

- Identification and documentation of 14 IBAs covering 17.5% of Fiji's land area
- 'Re-discovery' of Long-legged Warbler, last seen on Viti Levu in 1894
- Re-assessment of the IUCN Red List threat status of all of Fiji's forest birds (four species 'up-listed' and four 'down-listed')
- Base-line data-set of encounter rates of all of Fiji's forest birds assembled
- Update of key threats and actions, which identified rats and other invasive alien species as likely to be greater threats than previously assessed

These research findings have been subject to peer review through publication as a book and scientific papers (see Appendix III).

The Long-legged Warbler, last seen on Viti Levu in 1894, was discovered at five sites. Project data on this species has enabled a revision of its IUCN Red List status from *Data Deficient* to *Endangered*, and it is a key indicator species for sites of global biodiversity importance.

- ***Training and capacity building activities***

As noted above, training and capacity-building was integrated across the project but fewer resources were available than if this was the primary project objective. Capacity-building was aimed at three main categories: 1. project staff, 2. technical collaborating institutions' staff, and 3. land-owners and other local stakeholders. Selection of suitable trainees was an ongoing challenge for the project. The project was lucky to recruit a highly suitable National Coordinator but the high turn-over of Project Assistants reflected the difficulty in recruiting suitably qualified and motivated staff. Very few Fijians have the necessary combination of office management skills, a basic knowledge of biodiversity conservation and an enthusiasm to work in tough field conditions. The project had to compromise on all three key requirements in its recruitment but it failed to attract Project Assistants who stayed more than a year. The recommendations for follow-up projects are either to budget much higher to compete with the salary packages offered by inter-governmental agencies, or to recruit new graduates, recognising that this requires much more time for training and often means the risk of a high turn-over.

Training of project staff focused on their technical bird survey fieldwork skills until these skills were good enough to be able to undertake surveys alone. Prior to the project, the necessary very high level of skill had been achieved by only one person (Dr Dick Watling, Project Partner). The project trained two project staff, and helped to train two other staff from partner institutions (the Project Researcher, based at USP and a Department of Forestry employee) to this standard. This standard has not been formally accredited as Fiji is small enough easily to identify these people when these skills are required. For example, international bird tour companies are now using BirdLife and national environmental companies are using USP for the use of these skills.

The weeks in the office were used for training in project management skills. Most training was undertaken by the project staff actually undertaking the work, with close training, guidance and supervision by the Training Coordinator (and other project managers). At the end of the project, staff had good skills in planning, implementing and reporting a rolling work-plan. The skill levels achieved may best be indicated by the National Coordinator designing and implementing a 12-month follow-up project based on a successful funding application. With all these tasks, a major constraint is the need for written English of first-language quality when communicating to donors and project proposals and reports continue to need significant writing input from U.K. project or office staff. A survey of other conservation institutions in Fiji investigated the local skills level with logical frameworks. Only one Fijian staff person was found who wrote log-frames, and this person had a Masters in development from the UK. Project and donors in countries such as Fiji must ensure that they have realistic expectations of training outcomes.

Project staff participated in external training courses with various collaborating institutions such as the National Trust and USP. Additionally, the National Coordinator and a colleague from the National Trust of Fiji were funded to participate in a week of training in Australia with the New South Wales National Parks Board. Training in project planning, management skills and some technical skills was given to up to 49 participants in two regional bird conservation conferences organised by the project, the regional EC project and BirdLife International.

Similar challenges applied to the choice of trainees from technical collaborating institutions and similarly few suitable people volunteered or were nominated. Most trainees participated on a single fieldwork trip where they gained a good basic knowledge of fieldwork, bird surveys and conservation, but no in-depth skills worthy of accreditation.

Land-owners (and other local stakeholders) were asked to nominate their own trainees with the guidance that they should choose people who knew the forest well and were more likely to be involved in any follow-up guiding or eco-tourism work. In reality, the choice was also based on the interest of the traditional leaders (who often volunteered themselves) and peoples'

availability. The training was a basic introduction to bird identification, bird survey methods and conservation, combined with guiding skills, giving these people a good basic knowledge of guiding and conservation. Each training and experience week was undertaken in different sites with different trainees, and trainees were not assessed nor accredited.

The project trained local land-owners in small groups (such as this village head-man and colleagues) or individually, and national conservationists in larger groups (such as this university-lead group) or individually.

5. Project Impacts

The project purpose is: "An Important Bird Areas in Fiji directory identifies sites of global biodiversity conservation importance, and is used to advocate action at the highest-priority sites". As the book will be published and distributed after the end of the project, its use to advocate action is difficult to assess at this stage. It is anticipated that the book will be used widely because all of the relevant institutions in Fiji have been involved in its production to varying extents. Most importantly, it is designed to address directly the government's BSAP, ensuring full relevance to, and hopefully use by, the Government of Fiji. The project findings have already been used in the following examples:

- Dept of Environment BSAP manager has acknowledged the project's technical contribution in letters and submissions to e.g. CITES and UNDP.
- Ministry of Fijian Affairs made statements against logging at high-priority sites
- Local communities from several sites consulted the project about alternatives to logging
- Australian government funded 12 months of action at four high-priority sites
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has acknowledged "the contribution made to the implementation of SPREP's Regional Bird Conservation Strategy by BirdLife's Pacific Regional Strategy and in particular BirdLife International's Important Bird Area and Globally-Threatened Species Programmes" and has requested a BirdLife representative to chair a new regional working group on bird conservation.

The most significant unexpected impacts are:

- Facilitation of a multi-institutional process to secure conservation agreements for Sovi Basin (a priority site).
- Successful fund-raising from the EC for a similar regional project, and sharing of lessons and conclusions with these other Pacific island countries.

Mid-term review of unexpected impacts:

"The most significant unplanned impact is likely to result from the project's ability to mediate in the negotiation between local communities and Conservation International. This process was stalled after over ten years of activity. The project's National Coordinator, Vilikesa Masibalavu was able to assist in restarting the negotiations. This would not have been possible in the absence of the project."

The project has helped Fiji to meet its CBD obligations by completing some actions proposed in the BSAP. Most importantly, it has set out a clear, well-justified and locally-owned plan for a national terrestrial site conservation programme. The project and project staff have built a good reputation and relationship with government based largely on their fieldwork and awareness work. This political capital is essential for advocating the project's conclusions. However, the Government of Fiji has very limited resources to act upon the recommendations of this project or to implement the BSAP. Most of these actions are likely to be led by NGOs which can use the project and the book to solicit government assistance. The most concrete outcome is the use of project data to secure a significant grant from the Australian government for grass-roots, site-based conservation work.

The government's appreciation of the project is indicated on the government website as "Minister commends BirdLife Fiji project" copied as Appendix VII.

Mid-term review of project impact on Fiji's CBD obligations:

It is clear that the project has had more significant impact at goal level, largely through the IBA process and training provided to Fijian nationals. This is significantly contributing to Fiji's capacity to implement the CBD.

The project's capacity-building impact can be best summarised by the skills acquired by the project trainees during their time with the project, and their current employment:

- Vilikesa Masibalavu, National Coordinator: excellent field survey skills; good project management skills; ongoing employment with BirdLife International.
- Betani Salusalu, Project Assistant: good field survey skills; basic project management skills; employed with Wildlife Conservation Society.
- Timoci Gaunavinaka, Project Assistant: very good field survey skills; self-employed as an environmental consultant.
- Lisa Dakuna, Project Assistant: basic field survey skills; basic project management skills; employed as an educator with US Peace Corps.
- Alifereti Naikatini, Project Researcher: excellent field survey skills; basic project management skills (NB: skills largely acquired through employment with USP); employed as a research assistant at the South Pacific Herbarium, USP.

The project has improved the field survey skills of the following people from collaborative institutions:

- About 10 post-graduate students and researchers at USP
- Three conservationists at Wildlife Conservation Society
- Three rangers and conservation managers at National Trust of Fiji
- Two rangers at Dept Forestry
- National Coordinator - Conservation International
- One agriculture officer – Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement
- One officer – Ministry of Fijian Affairs

The project enabled BirdLife International to establish an office in Fiji and facilitated the fund-raising to secure EC funds to expand this into a Pacific Secretariat. Although there are few staff

(maximum of three over the course of the project) and all are project-funded, this provides continuity and time to develop strong collaborative relationships within Fiji and the Pacific islands. BirdLife International's UK Secretariat expertise and other resources are now more readily available to all local partners, notably Departments of Environment, Forestry and Fijian Affairs, National Trust of Fiji, national/regional offices of NGOs and USP. The ongoing relationship with the primary partner, USP, includes co-organising fieldwork and research, contributing to lectures, meetings and conferences, and partnering on the Australian-funded follow-up project along with the National Trust of Fiji. As well as bilateral collaborations, the project has established a Project Steering Committee as a multi-way forum between government, NGOs and the university.

Mid-term review of collaborations:

> *"There has been very good partner country contribution to the project through participation in the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC has membership drawing on the skills and interest of a range of external organisations. PSC members have played an active role in providing advice to the project team on implementation of the project. The challenge and opportunity for the remainder of the project and any follow-up activities is to enhance impact through enhanced engagement with these oraanisations."*

The project aimed to benefit local communities around sites of global importance for biodiversity conservation by facilitating opportunities for them to improve sustainable use of their forest and other natural resources. The project has initiated this process by raising their awareness of issues and opportunities. Economic benefits could arise if they change their land-use policies, avail themselves of opportunities or participate in income-generating conservation projects. These are all longer-term activities for which the project has laid the foundation but which require intensive follow-up work. Several communities around high-priority sites will benefit from the follow-up project currently being implemented and any further follow-ups for which BirdLife succeeds in raising funds. The direct economic benefits of income-generating conservation projects such as the Trust Fund proposed for Sovi Basin or eco-tourism projects as initiated for Navai village can be measured objectively but the indirect benefits of forest resources including drinking water are difficult to measure.

The National Project Coordinator's traditional status as a village Herald has facilitated conservation with land-owners from the Sovi Basin, such as at Nadakuni village:

6. Project Outputs

The project's outputs are summarised in Appendix II. Some outputs were under-achieved, as discussed in the 'details' section of Appendix II, and others were over-achieved, as **emboldened** in Appendix II. Most of the under-achievements were caused by the project proposal being over-ambitious and reliant on securing much more co-finance than was achieved, while local working conditions in Fiji, including the capacity of collaborative organisations, were much more challenging than had been anticipated. This was realised during the project, and revised targets were discussed within Fiji (notably with the Project Steering Committee) and proposed to the ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat.

However, the project strongly believes that its overall impact should be measured at the level of its purpose and objectives (its 'end-objectives'), and not at the level of the quantified outputs (its 'means-objectives'). It has also had ongoing discussion with the ECTF reviewers and Darwin Secretariat about the complications of monitoring against three separate frameworks: the Darwin Standard Outputs, the project log-frame and internal project work-plans. If the log-frame can be adapted annually to make it a practicable tool for project management, then it can be used in place of internal work-plans, and the project recommends that this be the primary means of monitoring outputs. The project's achievement of outputs is reported against the log-frame in Section 3. Project Summary.

Information on project outputs and outcomes has been disseminated in the following ways:

- Final book – distributed to decision-makers (government to land-owners) and used in conferences etc. Ongoing use planned by follow-up BirdLife projects.
- Project web pages – project summary with technical reports for download.
- Annual reports to Fiji government – an ongoing commitment by BirdLife, including details of follow-up activities derived from this project.
- Project Steering Committee – six-monthly reports presented personally to key conservation directors.

7. Project Expenditure

Item	*Original Budget*	*Revised Budget*	*Expenditure*	*Balance*

Three budget revisions were agreed by the Darwin Secretariat:

1. Before the project started, some salaries were carried forward from 2002/3 to 2005/6 to allow for a later start date than planned; this was written into the project schedule and is included in the 'Original Budget' above
2. During the first year, £2,500 was transferred from Conferences and Seminars (from £10,150 to £8,650) to Rent etc (£1000) and Office costs (£500). This change is included in the 'Revised Budget' above.

3. During 2005/6, £950 was transferred from Capital Items to Printing. This change is included in the 'Revised Budget' above.

Project expenditure was largely as budgeted. A small under-spend on salaries (£453) was offset by larger than expected expenditure on publication costs (£463 overspend).

Note that this financial report does not include the co-finance spend. Co-finance from other donors (including the EC and the Dutch government) was spent on the project, notably on the budget-lines rent, office costs and travel. These expenditures were not segregated into the totals spent co-financing the Darwin and on non-Darwin project costs, so are not available to add to this table.

8. Project Operation and Partnerships

The primary partner institution was the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University of the South Pacific (USP) but the project was also partnered with a local technical expert, Dr Dick Watling, who has authored many of the technical biodiversity sections of the NBSAP. Both partners have had major inputs designing, directing and advising the project and will continue to be involved in follow-up activities. The Project Steering Committee extended this framework of managerial partnership to include the National Trust of Fiji, the Depts of Environment and Forestry and the Wildlife Conservation Society. All institutions have very limited staff capacity to contribute significantly to the project implementation but work with USP included co-organisation and funding of training and awareness conferences and workshops, cross-training on fieldwork methods, collaboration on fieldwork visits, and co-supervision of the project masters student. Other collaborations have been forged with local partners for specific pieces of work (notably Ministry of Fijian Affairs, Worldwide Fund for Nature and Conservation International) and with the overseas partners Birds Australia and NSW National Parks Board (Australia), O'le Siosiomaga Society (Samoa), Palau Conservation Society, Royal Forest and Bird Preservation Society and Dept of Conservation (New Zealand), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (U.K.), Societie d'Ornithologie Polynesie (French Polynesia), Societie Caledonienne d'Ornithologie (New Caledonia), Taporoporoanga Ipukarea Society (Cook Islands), US Fish and Wildlife Service (Hawai'i). There were no other Darwin Initiative projects in the Pacific islands to network with and the previous Darwin projects in Fiji had been marine, partnered by USP. These various partnerships are destined to remain strong as long as BirdLife is successful in fund-raising to retain a presence in Fiji. The next challenge, already started, is to include local communities within these partnerships but this requires a commitment to work with each community for several years into the future.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation, Lesson learning

The project had significant difficulties with monitoring and evaluation. As discussed above (Section 6. Project Outputs), reporting to three parallel monitoring structures was impracticable and the project strongly recommends that the log-frame be adapted annually (in consultation with Darwin / ECTF) and used as the primary monitoring tool. Monitoring of discrete outputs, such as the Darwin Standard Outputs framework, with some specific additions, such as number of fieldwork visits, is relatively easy and objective but misses much information on quality and adaptation necessary to achieve the objectives and purpose. Similarly, monitoring of tangible outputs such as materials produced or funds raised are much easier to monitor than intangibles such as awareness and skills. Monitoring quality and intangibles is complex, time-consuming, burdensome to those being monitored, and was not attempted. These really need the subjective assessment of a technical reviewer, ideally visiting the project in-country. The project benefited

from the regular reviews by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC met twice a year and was composed of the Principal Environment Officer (Dept Envt), Acting Forest Conservator (Ministry of Forestry), Director of Institute of Applied Sciences (USP), Principal of Environment Consultants (Fiji), Director of Wildlife Conservation Society Pacific Program and the BirdLife Project Manager. The PSC discussed work-plan achievements and targets but, even as local experts working on the ground with the project, they found it difficult to make objective evaluations. An ECTF mid-term review was of particular benefit to M&E. While recognising the costs of these reviews, the project wonders whether more Darwin-funded projects could benefit from short mid-term reviews by experts in-country. Key lessons from other aspects of the project are largely captured by the list of 'good practices' and recommendations in the mid-term review.

Mid-term review of 'good practice':

- Direct linkage of the design of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
- Establishment of Memoranda of Understanding with key local stakeholder institutions
- The establishment of a local Project Steering Committee (PSC) and their active engagement in direction of the project
- Excellent capacity building of local staff working on the project
- Fijian staff have been very effective in empowering local communities to get involved in conservation activities
- Excellent national dissemination and communication strategy through publication of regular articles in the Fijian language in a periodical distributed to all indigenous villages
- Adaptive management to benefit from unexpected opportunities
  - Rediscovery on the Long Legged Warbler
  - Engagement with the Conservation International process in Sovi Basin
  - Promoting dialogue and action on the Fiji Petrel
- The adaptation and application of Birdlife's IBA methodology to Fiji has added value by providing objective rigour and international credibility to the identification of priority areas for conservation. This will assist in registering sites and mobilising resources. The benefit here is related to the international context of this process rather than the specific IBA methodology
- Close collaboration with other international NGOs (e.g. Wildlife Conservation Society) and local institutions (e.g. Department of Environment and National Trust for Fiji Islands) to promote conservation in Fiji

The project partnered with the National Trust to raise awareness of the Fiji Petrel on Gau

10. Actions taken in response to annual report reviews (if applicable)

The project appreciated the mechanism of ECTF feedback on annual reports and replied to all feedback. However, it struggled to find an effective method of discussion and agreeing changes with ECTF and the Darwin secretariat. Much of the feedback was non-contentious and was acted upon. However, the project believed that some feedback was impracticable or even erroneous, based on an incomplete understanding of the issues drawn solely from reading the report. It would be very useful to have an opportunity to discuss such issues with the reviewer by telephone. There appeared to be no mechanism for the Darwin secretariat to agree to proposed changes, leaving the project unsure whether its proposed changes were acceptable. All relevant correspondence with ECTF was copied to the project partners for their attention and advice. Their advice was often pragmatic, to consider the comments but to follow local advice based on local experience and conditions.

The main topics for reviewers' recommendations and project action were:

- During the first 1.5 years with a part-time U.K staff presence in Fiji, management was shared with the project partners. The project worked hard to secure resources for a full-time project manager.
- The logical framework was revised reluctantly by the project, which saw this as little more than an academic exercise unless there was an opportunity for regular revisions of the log-frame so that it could be used for project management.
- The project tried to minimise time spent securing the EC funding, some of which was used as direct co-finance for the project but most of which was for follow-up and extension to other countries, but the demands of this on the project's U.K. staff were agreed to have been excessive.
- The project spent more time trying to improve the project management and writing skills of the local staff, with limited success, as discussed in Section 4. Training.

Mid-term review of project management concerns:

> *"BirdLife International are to be commended for recognising the management problems associated with this project and have already done everything realistically possible to improve the situation (within available resources). The comments in this report are intended to document issues to assist the institutional learning process and inform the design of projects in the future. No further action is required by Birdlife International in relation to Darwin project 11-022, but they may wish to review other projects in light of the comments provided here."*

11. Darwin Identity

The Darwin Initiative logo was used on all headed notepaper, printed outputs and PowerPoint presentations. Darwin posters detailing the scheme and its aims were displayed at all project conferences. The Darwin name was used in all written and media outputs, with the Darwin mission statement, website or hyperlinks as appropriate. Within Fiji, the project had close working relationships with all institutions which might benefit from Darwin funding for terrestrial projects. Other institutions within the marine sector are probably well aware of Darwin through previous Darwin projects in Fiji. Project staff used the term 'Darwin Fellow' at the beginning of the project but this was later substituted for more descriptive job titles. The project was so distinct from any other work in Fiji that it was widely recognised as a stand-alone project. If BirdLife is successful in expanding and extending its activities, the project will be seen as a precursor to a larger programme.

12. Leverage

One of the major project successes was the leverage of a €1.2million grant from the European Community. The mid-term review noted that this grant was largely for follow-up and extension work but the project estimates that about 10% was spent on Darwin project work in Fiji and about 30% on regional staff and operations based in Fiji. Follow-up activity and continuity was assured by securing an Aus$180k grant from the Australian government (RNHP). During the period of the project, the following smaller grants were used entirely as co-finance for the Darwin project: €25k from LNV/DGIS (through BirdLife International), FJ$4700 from Conservation International, FJ$13500 from Wetlands International, FJ$2350 from Society of Wetland Scientists, FJ$25k from DGIS and FJ$20k from a private donor. In addition, in-kind contributions (transport, professional time, scientific facilities) were received from USP, National Trust, Environment Consultants Fiji, committee and advisory meetings in Fiji and from BirdLife International and various international partner and collaborating institutions. A major additional resource was provided by three volunteers, all taking time off from their careers with RSPB (the BirdLife International Partner in the U.K.). The contribution of a total of 32 weeks of time from Drs Digger Jackson, Sophie Lake and Durwyn Liley, who are post-PhD UK professionals from RSPB, made an invaluable impact on the project.

Although the project was undoubtedly successful in fund-raising, this comes with three caveats:

- All fund-raising was extremely time-consuming, taking staff time away from other activities
- Fund-raising from international donors requires a specialist understanding of donor requirements and has been reliant on expatriate input
- Fund-raising is never-ending in small nations such as Fiji which lack any core-funded institutional base (e.g. government) to continue project work.

The project laid the scientific, political and local groundwork to facilitate conservation of the mountains behind Suva.
A follow-up community-based conservation project is being funded by the Australian Regional Natural Heritage Fund

13. Sustainability and Legacy

The project exit strategy is copied as Appendix VI. The project has achieved most of its exit strategy aims, ensuring continuity of activities of key staff through at least two follow-up projects (EC and RNHP funded). The main project output, site identification, was a discrete activity which should remain valid and useful for many years. This needs parallel advocacy action for national policy and site-based conservation at IBAs. This, along with capacity-building of BirdLife and partner staff, should continue as part of the follow-up projects. The local project staff and the material resources will remain with these follow-ups. To ensure continuation of the fund-raising

efforts to sustain these activities, BirdLife is providing additional resources to employ a full-time Senior Technical Advisor. Applications have been submitted to the Darwin Initiative and Whitley Awards, and opportunities with CEPF and UNDP small grants are being pursued.

The legacy of the project could have been improved by:

- Budgeting more to fund greater participation by partners, especially government
- Budgeting more to fund U.K. staff time to produce more written outputs

14. Value for money

The project considers that the quality and quantity of its activities and outputs were good value for money. This is based on an assessment of how hard the project staff worked, the tight budgetary constraints, the quality of the work and the feedback from colleagues, collaborators and beneficiaries. The initial project design was perhaps too technical to be of optimal benefit to Fiji, but it was important to attain the global standards of Important Bird Area process. The type of basic community-based follow-up work being undertaken as a direct result of the project probably represents better value for money in terms of achieving the Darwin Initiative goal. It should also be noted that working costs in Pacific islands are much more expensive than most 'developing' countries.

Mid-term review of value for money:

> *"The project does represent good value for money invested by the Darwin Initiative, but it is essential to recognise that this value was delivered through the considerable dedication of project staff and investment by Birdlife International. It cannot be considered acceptable that value for money is obtained through indirect costs on people's lives. The Darwin Initiative has a responsibility to ensure that this does not happen."*

Establishing conservation areas which benefit land-owning communities will protect Fiji's biodiversity such as the Golden Dove

15. Appendix I: Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity		
Article No./Title	***Project %***	***Article Description***
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	*15%*	*Develop national strategies that integrate conservation and sustainable use.*
7. Identification and Monitoring	*50%*	*Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities that have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.*
8. In-situ Conservation	*10%*	*Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.*
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	*10%*	*Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.*
12. Research and Training	*8%*	*Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).*
13. Public Education and Awareness	*5%*	*Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.*
17. Exchange of Information	*2%*	*Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge*
Total %	***100%***	***Check % = total 100***

16. Appendix II Outputs

Outputs under-achieved are discussed under 'details'. Outputs over-achieved are in **bold.**

Code	***Total to date***	***Detail***
Training Outputs		
2	(1)	Masters thesis to be submitted in early 2007. The Exit Strategy undertakes BirdLife to give ongoing support to the student
4a 4b	40	Occasional single lectures and assistance with field excursions given to undergraduate classes of 40 students. The project has found it difficult to engage meaningfully with University lecture courses. Alternative methods of partnership were pursued, for instance assistance with field courses.
4c 4d	23x1week 14x1week	Lectures and field courses given to the 2-week USP PABITRA course (students = 15 Fijian, 2 Solomon Islanders, 3 ni-Vanuatu, 1 Cook Islander, 1 from Niue, 1 Samoan). 14 post-grad students were also were given one-to-one training on week-long fieldwork visits.
5	45 person-months	4 Fijian project staff received direct hands-on training from professional British staff and volunteers. Hands-on training will be continued after the Darwin project by BirdLife's decision to resource a full-time Senior Technical Advisor for the Fiji office.
6a 6b	**135people x 1 week** 5 people x 1 week (+ c.50 people x ½ -2 days)	**Fieldwork training** for staff from National Trust of Fiji, Dept Forestry, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Fijian Affairs, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Women and Culture, USP students, US Peace Corps volunteers and landowners (all Fijian). Project management training given during Important Bird Areas training course (participants from Fiji, Palau, French Polynesia and New Caledonia). Capacity-building will continue to be integrated into all activities but could be improved by better targeting. This requires more time than was built into the project proposals.
7	7	Training / awareness materials = 1 poster; 1 set of stamps of threatened Fijian birds; leaflet on threatened birds; English and Fijian versions of leaflets on project, and for schools. Training materials are not seen as good value in Fiji where communication is largely oral and rarely written. Awareness work used the pre-existing book (35 copies) and posters (119 of copies) produced by Dr Dick Watling, the project partner.
Research Outputs		
8	49 + 32 weeks	49 weeks by UK staff and 32 weeks by project volunteers (=post-PhD UK professionals) spent directly training Fijians.
11a 11b	2+4 1	2 short papers published in peer-reviewed and 1 in non-peer-reviewed journals. 4 papers submitted to peer-reviewed journals. See Appendix III.
12a	1	The IBA site directory will be a searchable database freely available on the web (scheduled for December 2005). An educational CD-ROM remains uncompleted until a technically-qualified Project Assistant or volunteer is recruited.
12b	7	Databases enhanced for government (BSAP; Ramsar Convention; National Trust Register of SNS, USP (PABITRA fieldwork) and for NGOs (CEPF; Fiji ecoregion; Alliance for Zero Extinction)
Also	**43**	Number of **sites visited for fieldwork**
Also	**619**	Number of **days on fieldwork** research
Also	**(1)**	Number of **technical books** published and disseminated. Scheduled for January 2006.

Code	Total to date	Detail
Dissemination Outputs		
14a	3 conf **63 pres** c.10 pres 3 worksh	Conferences organised: BirdLife Pacific Partnership meeting x 1 week (49 participants). BSAP workshop (45 participants from 24 Fijian institutions). BirdLife / SPREP regional bird conservation conference x 1 week (39 participants from 26 institutions). **Community presentations** given to 4 - 50 Fijian participants Technical presentations given to government and other technical collaborators Follow-up project development workshops for 50, 76 and 107 local stakeholders
14b	13 conf	Conferences attended = IUCN World Parks Congress, Fiji Heritage Trees, CEPF hotspot profile, WWF Fiji ecoregional planning, Oceans Forum, Mangrove & Climate Change Workshop, Levuka Heritage Conference, BirdLife World Conference, Fiji Invasive Species Network, International Tropical Timber Organization, GTZ sustainable forestry + 1 other. All in Fiji except for two in South Africa: World Parks Congress (poster presented) and BirdLife World Conference (presentation given).
15a	15	National press releases. Uptake of media releases proved to be poor and all media work was scaled-down (as noted in the MTR)
15c	1	Wide UK and international media coverage of Long-legged Warbler rediscovery (e.g. in The Times, Guardian, BBC and many other international websites).
16a	2	A newsletter was attempted but it received little interest and was soon discontinued
17a	3	Press list for media outputs, report list for field reports, BirdLife Pacific discussion group for regional news
17b	6	BirdLife Pacific Partnership, WCS Pacific Program newsletter, SPREP bird group / RoundTable working group, Fiji BSAP scientific committee, Fiji bird rarities committee, CEPF hotspot discussion group (note: last 3 are inactive fora). Fiji and the Pacific islands are too small to sustain many technical fora.
18a	5	National TV features. See comments under '15a'. TV is an excellent medium but needs a good political relationship with producers or the budget to pay for advertisements.
19a	6	National radio features. See comments under '15a'.
19b	3	BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and two outside UK, in USA (National Public Radio) and Canada (Canada BC Radio 1)
Physical Outputs		
20	£1,300	Computers and other capital equipment have been passed onto the BirdLife Fiji follow-up projects. The purchase-value was £6,500 but assuming 1/3 depreciation per annum, their current value is about £1,300
23	**£448, 000**	In-kind contributions (transport, professional time, scientific facilities) from USP, National Trust, Environment Consultants Fiji, committee and advisory meetings. Grants awarded directly for project work: €25k from LNV/DGIS (through BirdLife International), FJ$4700 from Conservation International, FJ$13500 from Wetlands International, FJ$2350 from Society of Wetland Scientists and FJ$25k from DGIS. About 10% of **€1.2million EC project** spent on project work in Fiji and about 30% on regional staff and operations based in Fiji. Aus$180k from RNHP for follow-up work. About £10k pledged for 2007 from British Birdwatching Fair and a further FJ$20k pledged by a Suva businessman to complete the publication of the Fiji IBA book.

17. *Appendix III: Publications*

Type	***Detail*** *(title, author, year)*	***Publishers*** *(name, city)*	***Available from*** *(e.g. contact address, website)*	***Cost £ ****
Journal	Dutson and Masibalavu (2003) Darwin project discovers Pink-billed Parrotfinches in Fiji	Oryx 37: 139-140	http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ORX	12
Journal	Dutson, G. and Masibalavu, V. (2004) Fiji's Long-legged Warbler seen again after 109 years.	Oryx 38: 131	http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ORX	12
Journal	Anon. (2004) BirdLife finds long-lost thicketbird.	World Birdwatch 26 (1): 2.	BirdLife International, CB3 0NA. 01223 277318	Free
Book	Dutson, G. and Masibalavu, V. (with designers – January 2006?) Important Bird Areas of Fiji	BirdLife International, Suva, Fiji.	BirdLife International, CB3 0NA. 01223 277318 BirdLife Fiji, 11 Ma'afu St, Suva. www.pacificbirds.com/publications	Price varies
Journal	Dutson, G. (2006?) The Pacific Shrikebills *Clytorhynchus* spp. and the case for species status for the Santa Cruz *C. sanctaecrucis*	Submitted to: Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club	www.boc-online.org/bulletin	N/A
Journal	Dutson, G. and Masibalavu, V. (2006?) Rediscovery and status of the Long-legged Warbler *Trichocichla rufa*	Submitted to: Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club	www.boc-online.org/bulletin	N/A
Journal	Dutson, G. and Watling, D. (2006?) Cattle Egrets and other vagrant birds in Fiji	Submitted to: Notornis	http://osnz.org.nz/notornisabs	N/A
Journal	Jackson, D.B. (2006?) Population density and detectability of three Fijian forest birds	Submitted to: Bird Conservation International	http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=BCI	14

*Publisher's fees for reprints. Free Word or pdf copies of all journal papers can be requested from guydutson@hotmail.com

Publications have been regularly written for national Fijian magazines, notably the Fijian-language Na Mata magazine (11 issues), Air Pacific's in-flight magazine (3 issues), the National Trust newsletter (3 issues) and the Wildlife Conservation Society South Pacific program's newsletter (2 issues). The project has also produced English and Fijian reports for each fieldwork trip, which are available from the BirdLife office in Fiji.

There are also hundreds of project news items available on the www. Searching "Darwin BirdLife Fiji" (Google; 24 Nov 2005) lists the BBC and Fiji government websites in the top ten sites.

Mid-term review of national publications:

> *"The regular publication of material as articles in the Fijian language through a periodical distributed to all indigenous villages has been very effective and is an example of good practice."*

Appendix IV: Darwin Contacts

Project Title	Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP
Ref. No.	162/11/022
UK Leader Details	
Name	Dr Lincoln Fishpool
Role within Darwin Project	Project Leader; maintenance of scientific standards
Address	BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA
Phone	
Fax	
Email	
Other UK Contact (if relevant)	
Name	Dr Guy Dutson
Role within Darwin Project	Training Coordinator; in-country project manager
Address	Birds Australia, 415 Riversdale Rd Hawthorn East, Victoria 3123, Australia
Phone	
Fax	
Email	
Partner 1	
Name	Vilikesa Masibalavu
Organisation	BirdLife International Fiji programme
Role within Darwin Project	National Coordinator
Address	BirdLife International Pacific Partnership Secretariat, GPO Box 18332, 11 Ma'afu Street, Suva, Fiji
Fax	
Email	
Partner 2 (if relevant)	
Name	Professor Bill Aalbersberg
Organisation	Institute of Applied Sciences
Role within Darwin Project	Project Partner
Address	Institute of Applied Sciences, University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji
Fax	
Email	

18. Appendix V: Log-frames

19.1 Original project log-frame

Project summary	*Measurable indicators*	*Means of verification*	*Important assumptions*
Goal To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention		Fiji government reports to CBD IUCN global reviews of bird conservation status Resources committed to biodiversity conservation	Identification of globally important sites facilitates their conservation Biodiversity conservation is feasible at these sites Adequate community support for site conservation Adequate resources mobilised for follow-up proposals
Purpose National registers identify sites of global importance for biodiversity conservation in Fiji (and other Pacific islands), and advocate site action through NBSAPs and follow-up projects	Number of stakeholders and institutions participating Number of Pacific nationals trained Number and type of training Number of hits to website and printed copies of registers Number of follow-up proposals for site conservation NB - Project Steering Cttee to enumerate all indicators	MoUs and collaborative agreements Project reports Publication of national registers Distribution of printed registers Use of registers on website Government reports to CBD	Fiji government maintains support for project and CBD Adequate government stability All institutions maintain cooperation Adequate technical capacity can be built in-country Awareness methods effective
Outputs - Technical capacity of national institutions is built - Biodiversity value and conservation potential of sites of possible importance are researched in field visits - Sites of global biodiversity importance are identified and communicated - National awareness raised - Resources are mobilised to enable long-term site-based biodiversity conservation	No. staff trained No. training weeks No. institutions benefiting No. literature items archived No. stakeholders consulted No. person-days fieldwork No. sites visited No. and type of publications and presentations No. participants at talks Amount of resources for follow-up proposals	Project reports External government reports (eg to CBD) External project reviews Agreements with collaborators Publications with dissemination reports Objective questionnaires Donor pledges	Sufficient pre-existing NGO and government capacity Suitable staff recruited Assessment criteria can be modified for Fiji and pan-Pacific use Wide participation outwith lead partners Donor community supports project follow-up strategy

Activities Institutional collaboration Stakeholder consultation Technical supervsion/advice Training courses & visits Data collation & repatriation Data synthesis / desk review Database and web design Targetted fieldwork visits Data analysis and reporting Production / dissemination of technical outputs Communication & advocacy Support for follow-up	MEANS UK salaries Local salaries Per diems for local experts Fieldwork per diems Transport and staff costs Office equipment and running costs Publication & communication Training / presentations Project admin	Internal reports to Darwin Annual reports to governments Project newsletters and website External appraisal Equipment inventory, invoices and bank statements	Collaborative institutions maintain support Government stability Suitable staff recruited No undue fieldwork constraints (eg weather)

19.2 Revised project log-frame

Project summary	***Measurable Indicators***	***Means of verification***	***Important Assumptions***
Goal: ***To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve*** • ***the conservation of biological diversity,*** • ***the sustainable use of its components, and*** • ***the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources***			
Purpose An "Important Bird Areas in Fiji" directory identifies sites of global biodiversity conservation importance, and is used to advocate action at the highest-priority sites[2]	Conservation action or project development initiated at 3 of the top 4 priority sites by the end of the project	Project concepts, proposals and reports from top priority sites	Stakeholders accept scientific basis and recommendations of directory Land-owners and government are motivated to promote biodiversity conservation Financially viable options are available for sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation
Outputs 1. Technical knowledge and ability to access advice on bird and biodiversity conservation is built within national conservation organisations (especially BirdLife Fiji, government and University of the South Pacific), and local land-owning communities	1.1 Three Fijians attain professional bird conservation survey skills and undertake independent surveys by end of project 1.2 At least 50 personnel from other institutions receive some training by project 1.3 At least 50 community participants receive some training by project	1.1 Bird conservation survey reports 1.2 Project reports 1.3 Project reports	Suitable project staff are recruited Government and partner institutions have suitable staff with training opportunities
2. A directory of sites of global importance for bird conservation and other terrestrial biodiversity is published, disseminated and advocated to national and local audiences	2.1 Launch of directory 2.2 At least 50 directories distributed to 30 institutions / departments / villages in Fiji 2.3 Number of sites visited	2.1 Media reports 2.1 Copy of national site directory 2.2 Distribution list of directories 2.3 Project fieldwork reports	Government and other institutions show interest and engagement with directory launch and use
3. Increased awareness of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation amongst national stakeholders (notably policy-makers) and local stakeholders (notably land-owners)	3.1 At least 5 land-owning communities seek the project's help to develop site-based conservation projects by end of project 3.2 Number of articles in national media 3.3 Number of presentations given by	3.1 Copies of follow-up concepts and proposals 3.2 Copies of media releases 3.3 Project reports	Interest and support of stakeholders leads to policy and action changes

[2] The directory will cover all terrestrial sites that can be identified using birds, and will discuss the issues specific to Fiji related to birds as indicators and identifying other sites using other taxonomic groups.
Highest-priority sites will be identified by in-country discussion and consensus based on both biodiversity conservation importance, threats, and socio-political needs and opportunuties.

	project 3.4 Number of participants at project presentations	3.4 Project reports	
4. Funds mobilised to support site-based biodiversity conservation at key sites identified by this project	4.1 Funds mobilised to support at least one site-based conservation project by end of project 4.2 Funds mobilised to support at least one additional year of project development and fund-raising	4.1 Funding agreements 4.2 Funding agreements	Resources are available for terrestrial biodiversity conservation in Fiji
Activities Field research and training		***Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)*** Yr 1: First fieldwork visits completed; fieldwork training by British staff; lecture given to university; Yr 2-4: total of 30 fieldwork visits completed; Yr 4: project student finishes Masters	
Awareness and advocacy presentations, workshops and conferences		Yr 1: PSC agreed and meets; first community presentations; Yr 2-4: annual national workshops organised; participation at a total of 20 conferences; total of 20 awareness presentations organised; Yr 2-3: 2 awareness materials produced; participation at an international conference.	
Written publicity and media releases, papers and directory		Yr 1: First press, radio and TV releases; initiate database; Yr 2-4: total of 10 press releases, 5 radio, 2 TV features; Yr 4: Four scientific papers submitted; Directory published and distributed; project documents on website	
Project development and fund-raising		Yr 1: Staff recruited and office established; Yr 1-4: total of 2 large and 5 small funding applications submitted	

20. Appendix VI: Exit Strategy

Aim

To ensure that the project outputs are completed where possible, and the project purpose is continued by building on the:

- Most important aspects of the project
- Most realistic options for continuation (i.e. funding-dependent)
- Project activities which need ongoing action and would be difficult to re-start after a break

Project outputs which could be completed after the formal project end include:

- Completion of the Fijian student's Masters thesis
- Publication of scientific papers
- Ongoing advocacy of project results (notably national policy and conservation at IBAs)

The most important aspects of the project to advance the project purpose are seen as:

- Site-based conservation activity at priority IBAs
- Capacity-building of BirdLife and partner staff

The most realistic options for continuation are seen as:

- Site-based conservation activity at priority IBAs (RNHP; CEPF; Darwin follow-up)

The activities of the project which need ongoing activity are seen as:

- Ongoing secure employment for Vilikesa Masibalavu
- Ongoing dialogue with land-owning communities at Tunuloa
- Availability of Vilikesa to assist with Sovi Basin project

Strategy

Project outputs which should be completed after Aug 2005:

- Completion of the Fijian student's Masters thesis
- Publication of scientific papers
- Ongoing advocacy of project results (notably national policy, and IBA conservation)

To develop good local relations and sound project concepts for key projects at priority IBAs

- Build on dialogue at Tunuloa, Forestry and Navai / Wabu, National Trust and Taveuni / Gau / other NT sites, FEA and Monasavu

To secure follow-up funding

- BirdLife to provide some resources to employ a full-time Senior Technical Advisor
- Expat staff to prioritise Darwin and EC project time spent fund-raising
- Apply to RNHP, CEPF when open (perhaps Sep 2005) or draft project concepts in advance, and Darwin for a follow-up (Sep 2005)
- Assist local stakeholders to apply to small community development funds

To retain key staff and employ new staff

- Establish a sound financial base in order to offer Vilikesa Masibalavu a secure contract
- Employ a new Project Assistant

To build the technical and project management capacity of project and partner staff

- BirdLife to provide some resources to employ a full-time Senior Technical Advisor
- Ensure that capacity-building is incorporated into all project activities – and to be adequately budgeted and time-tabled

22. Appendix VII: Fiji government press release

Press release copied from http://www.fiji.gov.fj/cgi-bin/cms/exec/view.cgi/68/4896

Minister commends Birdlife Fiji project
Jul 1, 2005, 14:10

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlement and Environment Pio Wong has praised the Birdlife Fiji Project saying it has made significant progress in improving the awareness of citizens as to the importance and relevance of birds to their lives.

He made the comment on Thursday (30/06) at the Birdlife International Regional meeting held in Suva.

He said that to alleviate poverty Government has been exploring the different ways in which the tourism dollar can be made to filter right down to the communities at the grass roots level.

The Birdlife Project, he said is making a contribution to the fulfilment of this aim but with strong emphasis on conservation of the environment.

“This will ensure that projects are environment friendly and compatible with the local people lifestyles.”

Mr Wong said that birds are good indicators of environment health and Birdlife has found that certain birds are unique to certain areas, for instance the Pink-billed Parrot finch that is found in the deep forests of Viti Levu.

“Birds are good ambassadors and beautiful to watch. Many Fijian totems are birds and other forest animals including trees,” he said.

The project Mr Wong indicated has identified 12 important bird areas for Fiji and four of them are being looked at closely in terms of more detailed work – Taveuni, Tomaniivi, Natewa Peninsula and Waimanu.

“I believe that Birdlife Fiji has been networking with the other organizations such as National Trust, Forestry and USP in developing a conservation strategy for these 4 areas which no doubt will include the potential of ecotourism as a source of income to the local community.

“This project has been timely because it coincides with the aim of my Government to make tourism a billion dollar industry by 2007.”

Mr Wong added that although the economic benefits are small, the income through eco-tourism is important as some of this goes direct to the local communities, for example Koronitu/Abaca and Bouma Heritage site conservation activities, which benefits the rural communities.

On its conservation Non Government Organisations in Fiji raise millions of dollars in funds, which they spend in the country.

“Government is appreciative of this,” Mr Wong said.

Birdlife is a three year project funded by the Darwin Initiative of the United Kingdom and the European Community.

The project stems from a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Environment in partnership with the Institute of Applied Science at the University of the South Pacific.

In September 2003, Birdlife International expanded its national activities in Fiji into a regional Pacific Partnership Secretariat serving Birdlife's seven other partner NGOs in the Pacific.

Mr Wong said the purpose of the Project is the identification of sites of global importance of biodiversity, assistance and agreement for sustainable management through Birdlife Important Bird Area (IBA) process.

The key outputs are : -
Increased national and local awareness of sustainable forest management for the benefit of our communities and biodiversity,
The building up of the technical capacity of governments and civil society,
Sites of global diversity importance (IBAs) are identified, researched and communicated for their potential and benefits,
Land owning communities are informed and empowered to implement sustainable land use policy practices and
Resources mobilized to support sustainable-use frameworks in new sites.

The purpose of the regional meet is to :
- Discuss the progress of the project in terms of conservation of birds in the South Pacific,
- Develop a strategy for bird conservation priorities and
- Discuss funding opportunities to progress the project further.

-End