

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	Blue Forests: Protecting Biodiversity through Sustainable Farming of Coral Reefs
<b>Country</b>	Fiji and Solomon Islands
<b>Organisation</b>	Just World Partners and the Foundation for the South Pacific
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/12/033
<b>Report date</b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2003</i>

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Work so far has focussed on orientation of staff, development of work plans and experimental protocols, communications with affiliate organizations in Fiji and Solomon Islands and preliminary site visits in Fiji. The main difference with the baseline timetable is that the first Moturiki research site has been agreed with the traditional reef owners but not yet fully delineated and established. The setting up of the Solomon Island research sites will be addressed after a forthcoming visit to Solomon Islands in November of project staff as the changing political situation (for the better) has implications for the project.

The baseline work for a review of socio-economic data on coral farming has been initiated and a monitoring plan incorporated into the experimental protocol.

### 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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

The changing political situation in Solomon Islands with the recent intervention of the Australian armed forces is expected to improve the working conditions in Solomon Islands. At present though we are still assessing the exact implications and have delayed the first site visits until November. Match funding for Solomon Islands is on line and the situation is optimal though we expect activities to be slightly delayed compared to the timetable.

The match funding for Fiji has been slightly delayed and consequently we expect to concentrate work on one site until the funding is on line. The implications of this for the timetable will be a delay in the implementation of work at the other sites but should not affect final outputs.

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

Yes. The in-arrears disbursement procedures are extremely difficult to operationalise for small NGOs in terms of cash flow and only serve to encourage indebtedness or bad accounting practices.