

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/12/033
<b>Project Title</b>	Blue Forests: Protecting Biodiversity through Sustainable Farming of Coral Reefs
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Fiji, Solomon Islands
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Just World Partners
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Partners in Community Development Fiji
<b>Report date</b>	1 April 2004 – 30 September 2004
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.fspi.org.fj">www.fspi.org.fj</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).**

### Fiji

#### Community Based Management Processes

##### Activity 1: Baseline surveys: biological 75% completed

Monitoring protocols designed in June

Community training conducted in which 30 community members participated with representation from all 7 communities on Moturiki in June/July

Monitoring conducted in 3 of 5 no fishing areas in July-September

Monitoring for remaining 2 delayed due to weather condition rescheduled for early December

##### Activity 2: Baseline surveys: Socio-economic 25% completed

A draft questionnaire was prepared and reviewed.

Based on the review of the proposed questionnaire it became apparent that the focus of the data collection was not clear and that there was a need to go back to the community to review the CBMP and in doing so develop indicators to measure the plan effectiveness which would then guide the content of the socio-economic baseline survey.

Arrangements were made to conduct 2 one day workshops with the Moturiki communities between 20-25 September to review plans and develop indicators. These workshops were then rescheduled to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November due to a funeral in the Community.

##### Activity 3: Assist Communities Demarcate their No fishing Zones 70% completed

4 of 6 villages have demarcated no fishing areas in traditional manner

Awaiting confirmation of this from other 2 communities

GPS demarcation of Cagalai, Uluibau, Daku and Yanuca MPA completed

GPS equipment required to complete others.

#### **Activity 4: Fish wardens training workshop 100% completed**

A training workshop was held in Malolo and included participants from Malolo, Moturiki and Cuvu 27-29 July 2004. 16 Fish wardens from Moturiki attended.

#### **Activity 5: Restocking of giant clams and Ark shells 25% completed**

Arrangements have been finalised with Fisheries for restocking which will be carried in mid November

#### **Activities planned but not done due to review of project progress**

- Fish catch data collection – Not continued due to decision to review CBMP, establish indicators and design socio-economic data needs based on this. May be reintroduced if it is an outcome of upcoming workshop
- Training communities in coral planting and raising awareness on corals to lowering negative impacts on the environment – Whilst Moturiki community was involved in the setup of the coral trials and awareness raising of the impacts on corals and their biology was included in the PLA processes in the first year, the further implementation of this activity is dependent on the review of CBMP and whether the community request this.
- Project monitoring and evaluation strategy – to be developed based on review of CBMP and indicators developed to evaluate implementation of these – see regional activities for more information on whole project monitoring and evaluation

#### **Coral Farming Trials**

##### **Activity 1: Setting up Coral Farming Experiments 90% Completed**

120 Mother Colonies have been in place on table since February and 360 fragments from these placed in trays to grow out since April. Maintenance visits have since been conducted to the trial sites and some data collected. This initial data collection has shown some problems with the experimental methodology being used to assess the Coral culture methods being trialled. As such a substantial review of the methodology was conducted during August and September. The final setup based on the reviewed methods will be carried out in the first week of November with data to be collected at 3 month intervals up to December 2005.

##### **Activity 2: Carry out restoration activities and experiments**

See comments for activity 1

##### **Activity 3: Monthly site visits for monitoring field experiments**

See comment for activity 1

##### **Activity 4: Feedback on suitability of cultured corals with Fiji Based companies.**

In reviewing the methodology for the trials some data on marketability has been included. In mid October an globally recognised industry expert will further discuss this component with the Coral Gardens Scientist to help develop marketability criteria and methods for getting standard feedback on this.

#### **Solomon Islands**

##### **Activity 1: Experimental design for initial Solomon Islands coral work 100% Completed**

The experimental design was completed in April 2004. Note this component has also been reviewed over the last 2 months with no substantial amendments required.

**Activity 2: Malaita Coral restoration experimental set up 100% Completed**

This activity was completed in May during a visits by the Coral Gardens Scientist

**Activity 3: Quarterly monitoring visits 100% completed**

Solomon Islands Field Officer and the VDW from Langa Langa Lagoon conducted a monitoring/data collection trip to trial sites 27 September – 2 October. Results are currently being analysed.

**Activity 4: Site scoping and community work in Ngela, Guada Canal and Malaita 50% Completed**

Over the last six months Solomon Islands based staff have been continuing to conduct PLA workshops and baseline monitoring of no fishing areas established as part of the ICRAN Solomon Islands Coral Gardens Initiative. The results from these will be reviewed over the next month to determine whether further restoration, coral farming trials could be established under the Darwin Blue Forests grant.

**Regional Activities****Activity 1: Develop Socio-economic TOR 100% completed**

SPREP has approved funding for a joint FSPI/MAC study on the socio-economic costs and benefits of wild and cultured coral trade for communities to be completed by January 2005

**Activity 2: Compile Market information and economic weak points of the coral trade**

This is being completed as part of the above mentioned study due in January 2005.

**Activity 3: Ongoing review, advice, assistance on Fiji and Solomon Island Activities**

Activities over the last 6 months in relation to supporting national work include:

- Assistance in designing and arranging baseline biological monitoring at Fiji sites
- Assistance in review of socio-economic questionnaire and preceding review of process this instigated.
- Full review and redesign of farming and restoration trail methodology for the Solomon Islands and Fiji.

**Activity 4: CITES and MAC compliance of coral farming methods being trialled to be analysed and discussed.**

Due to the review of the trial methodology this will be delayed until March next year. However dialogue is ongoing with CITES and MAC representatives in Fiji and FSPI is providing input into the International MAC Standards for Coral Mari-culture currently under development.

**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.**

Over the last six months the project has undergone a significant amount of review and consideration in relation to its separate components which when considered as a whole in relation to the original objectives and log frame of the project lead to the conclusion that the objectives and outputs as originally stated will not be achieved in full.

In particular the original objectives of the project in relation to delivering coral culture as an alternative to wild harvest and as a sustainable reef based enterprise will not be fully realised. What will be achieved is a comprehensive understanding of the preconditions for culture to be viable both in terms of socio-economic viability and technical viability from which materials and training will be developed to disseminate to communities.

Based on this a revised work plan has been developed for the remainder of the project which is being sent to the Darwin Secretariat for approval with this report. Over the next month the project log frame will also be reviewed to reflect the revised view of what will realistically be achieved under this project. Once reviewed this will also be sent to the Darwin Secretariat for approval.

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

See comment above

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

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

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

Whilst we note that the Darwin Secretariat has informed us that the payment in arrears process cannot be changed we would again like to reiterate that this process continues to cause some of the delays to project implementation due to limited cash flow of local partners.

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](mailto: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.**