

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-020 : SB001701
Project Title	Network of Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas in Solomon Islands.
Country(ies)	Solomon Islands
UK Organisation	WWF UK
Collaborator(s)	WWF South Pacific Programme
Report date	October 20, 2006
Report No.	HYR 2
Project website	www.wwfpacific.org.fj

- 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).**

This reporting period is from 1st April to 30th September 2006.

- Western Provincial Government and Partners in Community Development Workshop

A workshop involving the Western Provincial Executive Members, Provincial Departments, NGOs, international donor agencies, and representatives from the community, church and private sectors was successfully conducted in late June. This workshop was the first of its kind and resulted in an agreement between the participants to coordinate works towards sustainable development in Western Province. A decision was made to form a working committee, and a draft action plan was drawn up.

- Look and Learn Trip

A look and learn trip involving three representatives from each Darwin site to the Tetepare Conservation Area Project site was “inspirational” for the community members. Participants gained confidence and ideas for MPA management in their own communities, and experienced first hand the biological and financial benefits of a community-based management program.

- Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Report Back

Data from the PRAs conducted in the four Darwin communities was compiled and analysed, and the draft results revised by WWF and community members. The final results were fed back to the participants in the form of draft community profiles. This report back process focused attention on resource management and became the stepping stone for the development of draft community management and development plans.

- Management Policies, Planning and Monitoring Program

After the collection of important physical, biological and socioeconomic data, the communities were in the position to make well informed decision on how, when and where to use their resources. Preliminary boundaries for the MPAs were identified, and draft management plans are currently being revised by community members. Monitoring programs have also been drafted but are still in a preliminary stage.

- Education, Awareness and Training

WWooFers, a drama group formed by WWF-SI, has recently completed another series of tours within Darwin communities. Including plays on turtles, marine protected areas, coastal marine habitats, life cycles of important island marine resources, and fisheries regulations this mode of awareness was able to effectively reach all community members regardless of age, gender and status. This is a highly successful awareness raising tool, as it injects comedy and emotion into the underlying and intended message of each play.

Preliminary design of educational materials is currently underway, which began in FY06. This will include a poster and brochure as well as a tool-kit for schools. Assembly of material for a Solomon Islands radio programme on the importance of marine protected areas is also underway.

- Marine Biology Survey

The marine biology survey for Darwin sites was conducted in early to mid June, 2006, collecting the status of the population stock and health condition of corals, finfish and invertebrates using the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences (AIMS) applied methodology. Data collected were fed into the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) data base obtained in the previous year (FY06). Data analysis and compilation is currently underway. Analysed data have shown greater coverage of live corals and higher populations of finfish compared to other sites being surveyed as part of the GCRMN. This data will act as baseline data for monitoring purposes.

- Monitoring and Evaluation

A half year monitoring and evaluation exercise was conducted. A work plan and budget for FY07 was prepared and accepted.

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 Western Provincial Government and Partners in Community Development workshop was rescheduled a number of times, delaying the implementation date for this activity. This was not ideal, however, it was important that all participants (particularly the provincial government representatives) were able to attend. The positive outcomes from this workshop demonstrate the need to coordinate the participants involved, and it is not anticipated that the delay will affect the timetable of the project.

Prior commitments of overseas experts earmarked to conduct both mangroves and seagrass surveys have resulted in these two activities being further delayed. Local experts who are able assist in the surveys in mid-late November, 2006 have now been identified.

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

No

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

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?

No

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.**