



Submit by 13 January 2006

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT ROUND 14 COMPETITION:STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form and you should give a full answer to each question. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on this form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required. Please do not reduce the font size below 11pt or alter the paragraph spacing. Keep within word limits.

1. Name and address of organisation

Name: BirdLife International	Address: Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Community-based conservation groups at Fiji's key conservation sites
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 1 July 2005		Duration of project: 36 Months		End date: 30 June 2009	
Darwin funding requested	Total	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/2010
	£199,601	£51,585	£66,561	£66,561	£14,894

4. Define the purpose of the project in line with the logical framework

<p>The project will use British expertise develop the capacity of Fijian conservation professionals who will in turn train land owning community members in order to establish local conservation groups or Site Support Groups (<i>Community Groups</i>) that will undertake protected area management at four of Fiji's internationally important forest biodiversity sites. The capacity of a cohort of Fijian nationals working for conservation organisations and students will be developed in areas critical for terrestrial conservation, namely, protected area management and planning, fundraising and biological monitoring. These skilled professionals will then engage with, and develop the capacity of, land owning communities on the four selected sites helping them to develop protected area status management plans and monitoring protocols. These working models will provide testbeds to hone the training programme and as advocacy projects to encourage other communities to develop protected area protocols. The project will facilitate the development of a central, in-country support group to assist the sustainability of individual groups, and to develop and expand the protected forest network.</p>

5. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Millett		Masibalavu
Forename (s)	James Edmund		Vilikesa
Post held	Senior Technical Advisor		Fiji Programme Co-ordinator
Institution	BirdLife International		BirdLife International
Department	Pacific Partnership		BirdLife Fiji Programme

6. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, give details

- "Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP" Project ref. 162 (July 02 to March 05) £131,000.
- "Directory of key sites for the conservation of Philippine birds" (April 1996 to March 1998) £75,100.
- "Building constituencies for site based conservation in Myanma" Project ref. 162 (April 03 to March 06) £158,000.
- "Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa" Project ref. 235 (04 to March 07) £189,435.
- "DarwinNet- The Peru-Ecuador Dry Forest Clearing House Mechanism" Project ref.116 (April 04 to March 07) £195,951.
- "Building a Bird Conservation and Environmental Network in China" Project ref. 459 (April 05 to March 08) £190,410.
- "Supporting southern conservation NGOs to work with the CBD" Project ref.454 (April 05 to March 08) £142,560.

7. IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO QUESTION 6 describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)**Aims (50 words)**

The Pacific Partnership is committed to halting bird extinctions in the Pacific region and reversing declines in biodiversity through the implementation of the BirdLife Pacific Strategy. Specific targets include the identification of sites of global significance for birds in the region. The development of a strong and effective partnership capable of competent advocacy with the capacity to implement grassroots, community-based conservation measures on these sites is critical for success. This includes working directly with Pacific Partnership of NGOs to build their capacities through technical training, project development, institutional support, guidance, networking with other NGOs through project development and helping Partner NGOs to secure funds for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific region, together with the development of fledging conservation NGOs.

Activities (50 words)

The BirdLife Fiji Programme successfully undertook a Darwin-funded Important Bird Area (IBA) identification process during 2002-05. This was followed by a one-year Australian Government-funded Regional Natural Heritage Programme (RNHP) project working with the Fiji government and local land-owners to create, and promote Protected Area status (PA) for four IBAs. This replicable model for IBA identification has been transferred to, and is being implemented by, regional partners based in three Small Island Developing States (New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Palau) under a European Commission-funded project.

Achievements (50 words)

Since its beginning in 2002, the BirdLife Fiji programme, has made significant contribution to the conservation of Fiji's terrestrial biodiversity by addressing poor knowledge of the distribution, conservation status, threats and necessary actions for threatened bird species. Fourteen IBAs have now been identified. This represents a marked improvement in the knowledge of the status and distribution of endemic birds and has contributed to Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) objectives. This is now being followed by the development of community-based conservation initiatives. The Fiji Programme has developed high-calibre, local capacity to implement conservation programmes and has established a functional regional office.

8. Please list the UK (where there are partners in addition to the applicant organisation) and host country partners that will be involved in their project and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. What steps have been taken to ensure the benefits of the project will continue despite any staff changes in these organisations? Please provide written evidence of partnerships.**Lead Partners**

University of the South Pacific (USP): Will provide technical expertise (PRA/PLA; botany; herpetology); links to students, researchers and educational courses; USP was a partner in the previous BirdLife Fiji project. The University will link to project activities through the implementation of taught courses and seminars for students on all of the main themes of PA management planning, monitoring methodologies, technical methods and fundraising. Practical sessions will be made available to students as formal modules or by mentoring and placements. The core costs of two students will be funded by the project to research indicator species and monitoring methodologies.

Supporting Partners:

National Government of Fiji: The Fiji government supports BirdLife's conservation objectives and activities and have been involved in the development of this project and fully endorse the proposal. The BirdLife Fiji Programme supports the Fiji government in the achievement of its biodiversity conservation obligations, particularly with regard to the CBD and also the NBSAP. BirdLife also assists the Fiji government to meet other general aims, including the Millennium Development Goals. BirdLife's relationship with the Ministry of Environment was formally cemented by the signing of a MOU in 2002 and is exemplified by the significant BirdLife contribution to the annual national report to the CBD COP and by the representation of Government on the Project Steering Group (PSG) during the previously implemented Darwin project and the current RNHP project. This strong working relationship will be continued for the duration of this project.

- **Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlement and Environment:** has been engaged throughout the application process and will maintain a steering role through participation on the PSG.
- **Ministry of Fisheries and Forests:** is instrumental in the development of forest protected areas and in maintaining an overview of potentially damaging activities, the Ministry has been engaged throughout the project development phase and remains supportive. It will be consulted regularly during project implementation and staff will participate in training activities and staff exchanges. Their input, advice and support is instrumental in the progression of PA status declarations and designation.
- **Ministry of Tourism:** has been engaged with since Phase 1. The Ministry is keen to partner with BirdLife and explore links between biodiversity and tourism.

Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network (FLMMA) an association of governmental departments, NGOs and private enterprise. Work has focused on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) but its remit is being broadened to include terrestrial ecosystems. It has been engaged throughout the project development and will participate in training courses, exchanges and student placements as well as in the production and dissemination of technical publications.

National Trust of Fiji Engages with and partners BirdLife in site-based work. It is a leading partner in the Sovi Basin project and at existing PAs on Taveuni. The Trust will participate in training activities and the BirdLife work on Taveuni is highly complementary to ongoing community work on the Bouma Reserve.

Conservation International Fiji Program contracts BirdLife to participate in site-based work at Sovi Basin - and national site prioritisation - though the CEPF profile for which a trust fund is being established. CI has been consulted and will participate in training activities, particularly monitoring methodologies.

World Wildlife Fund Fiji Programme facilitates national communication and advocacy with a focus on MPAs. WWF has been consulted and supports the project. It will be engaged primarily in training courses and engagement over technical publications.

Viti (Fiji) Resource Owners' Association is a specialist group focusing on the development of wise use of Fiji's land and natural resources. It represents community leaders and strongly supports the BirdLife programme. The Association has influence over 90% of Fiji's natural forest and will support and promote community group development on target sites and advocate the project more widely amongst Fiji's land owning communities.

Regional Supporting Partners

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) – inter-governmental link to other nations and programmes; works with BirdLife on regional planning and prioritisation. Supports the project and the contribution it will make to regional training programmes. Close liaison with the regional technical advisor, important for dissemination of progress and outputs.

Regional BirdLife Partners (in SIDS): Taporoporoanga Ipukarea Society (TIS) (The Cook Islands); Dick Watling / Fiji Programme (Fiji); Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie – MANU (French Polynesia); Société Calédonienne d'Ornithologie (New Caledonia); Palau Conservation Society (Palau). The BirdLife Partnership supports the proposal and will be instrumental for the dissemination of outputs and lessons of this project to other conservation NGOs in the Pacific region. Three countries will be completing site prioritisation processes during the project life time and staff exchanges or secondments will be crucial for the regional dissemination of information and skills.

The Partnerships listed above will extend beyond this proposed Darwin Initiative project timeframe. More than one person will be trained from each organisation or community group to mitigate for personnel changes and enhance benefit sharing with others within their institutions/NGOs. Knowledge and skills will be disseminated widely amongst all project stakeholders and well beyond the project e.g. through the BirdLife

network, which is well-known for its information-sharing principles.

9. What other consultation or co-operation will take place or has taken place already with other stakeholders such as local communities? Please include details of any contact with the government not already provided.

Local communities

Consultations have been undertaken during the survey and prioritisation process with communities on all identified Fiji IBAs, and these have been developed through a more formal process of consultation and PRAs on the four priority sites where community-based consultation is being undertaken under the RNHP project. Links have been further developed with communities at several other IBAs. This encouraging trend of communities approaching BirdLife for advice, assistance and partnership has recently been demonstrated by the facilitation of links with BirdLife by the influential Fiji Resource Owners' Association. This is exemplary, demonstrating a genuine interest amongst communities to seek sustainable resource management. The willingness to engage in resource protection and development of wise-use practices by communities has influenced the selection of IBAs targeted in this project: Taveuni (FJ4) and Tunoloa (FJ3) where work is on going and Nabukelevu (FJ12) and East Kadavu (FJ13) where no forest conservation has been undertaken but communities have solicited assistance for this activity.

Community consultation will be a primary activity of the project from the outset; links with communities where BirdLife has established relationships (under existing projects) will be strengthened and expanded to adjacent communities through formal PRAs if not undertaken prior to the agreement of precise training needs and objectives. It is important to note that each of the forest IBAs are owned by more than one community, typically several. The progress made on selected communities under the RNHP project will facilitate the recruitment of adjacent communities in the formation of community groups.

The Wildlife Conservation Society South Pacific Program is currently undergoing regional restructuring and possible relocation. Firm commitments are therefore not possible, and it has not been included as an official project partner, but WCS has reiterated its enthusiasm for its Fijian team participating in the project training activities. Good links also exist with provincial local governments who facilitate work with local stakeholders and request and support fieldwork and community-based conservation.

The BirdLife International Pacific Partnership in addition to this proposed project's supporting partners comprises Birds Australia; Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (New Zealand) and Le Si'osi'omega Society (Samoa). These partners will be included in the wider communications of project progress and results.

PROJECT DETAILS

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work, or of any completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects relevant to your work? If so, please give details explaining similarities and differences and showing how results of your work will be additional to any similar work and what attempts have/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

To date, a relatively small amount of terrestrial conservation work has been undertaken in Fiji. This has tended to be broad scale planning, species-orientated or focused on taxonomic surveys. WWF undertook a three year planning programme (1988-80) to identify a system of terrestrial and marine conservation areas. This was followed by a more focused examination of terrestrial sites by the Maruia Society in collaboration with the Native Lands Trust Board and the Department of Forestry. The GEF-funded, UNDP and National Government-implemented NBSAP process represented a highly consultative, broad-based exercise in identifying priorities and responsibilities for the conservation of Fiji's biodiversity. Subsequently, Wildlife Conservation Society undertook an independent USAID-funded prioritisation process, *Toward a Conservation Strategy for the Tropical Forests of Fiji* used a range of taxonomic criteria to identify *forest hotspots*. These are more extensive than IBAs but correlate closely, demonstrating that, as elsewhere, birds are suitable indicators of Fiji's forest biodiversity. Currently, a partnership between the Fiji Government, National Trust of Fiji (NTF) and CI is establishing a trust fund of approximately \$US3 million for the management and safeguarding of the Sovi Basin, one of Fiji's most pristine forest blocks, an IBA and on the UNESCO tentative list for World Heritage Site nomination. The most important community based terrestrial

conservation initiatives in Fiji at present are centred around the National Heritage Parks at Bouma on Taveuni and at Koroyanitu on Viti Levu. Both of these have been active for over 15 years and have provided an important precedent and lessons for the planning of terrestrial community-managed conservation initiatives. The most valuable lessons being that the communities have declared and adhered to the PA agreement. This is undertaken through a democratic process of landowner consensus to declare PA status, that then is taken forward to be gazetted and become a statutory designation. The other key lesson being that ecotourism development is a slow process, depending on steady grass roots development.

Marine projects implemented by a range of partners, including WCS, WWF, the USP and FLMMA, have achieved considerable successes in the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), providing valuable lessons, particularly in relation to community engagement and the development of professional and community capacities. One of the chief characteristics of marine conservation in a community context has been the relatively direct linkage between existing livelihoods benefiting from managed resources: that is the fishing improves.

This project builds directly on the achievements of the Darwin-funded project *Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance for the Fiji BSAP* implemented by the BirdLife Fiji Programme and the subsequent, ongoing project *Conservation agreements for the four highest priority forest blocks in Fiji* (05-034 Regional Natural Heritage Programme Australian Government funded). This proposed project will be instrumental in taking the conservation programmes for these prioritised sites beyond short-term project-dependent activities to a much more sustainable footing by the development of the capacity of conservation professionals and community members to implement effective management and develop funding streams.

The recently completed Darwin project was an essential first step in the conservation of avian ecosystems in Fiji. It successfully identified 14 sites of global importance for birds using internationally recognised criteria. These results have been welcomed both by the Fiji government and community leaders. This project was followed up by the RNHP funded project that is now implementing community conservation action. The objectives of this ongoing RNHP project are 1) to research, agree, publish and advocate site management and conservation plans for Fiji's two highest-priority forest / nature reserves (Tomanivi FJ7 and Taveuni FJ4) 2) for land-owners and other local stakeholders to define and declare a protected area status for two of Fiji's highest-priority unprotected forests (Vitilevu Southern Highlands (FJ10 and Tunoloa FJ3) .

The sites for the new Darwin Initiative project have been selected to maximise the benefits and lessons learnt of previous work at IBAs in Fiji. These sites include: Taveuni (FJ4), Tunoloa (FJ3), Nabukelevu (FJ12) and East Kadavu (FJ13). Taveuni is of outstanding value and only partially protected and this project will seek to increase the PA and enhance management planning. Tunoloa is progressing in PA development under the RNHP project (which finishes in July 2006) but will be greatly enhanced by continued work whilst Nabukelevu and East Kadavu have not received any terrestrial conservation measures. Proximal marine conservation is well developed and communities have now sought terrestrial assistance. This selection also achieves a wide geographical spread of sites which benefits local advocacy as communities are responsive to the activities of their neighbours and also ensures greater biodiversity conservation benefits.

11. How will the project assist the host country in its implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity? Please make reference to the relevant article(s) of the CBD thematic programmes and/or cross-cutting themes (see Annex C for list and worked example) and rank the relevance of the project to these by indicating percentages. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD national focal point

in the host country? Further information about the CBD can be found on the Darwin website or CBD website.

This project will directly enhance the implementation of NBSAP and hence CBD targets. The broad benefits to be derived from the project will support a wide range of Articles and crosscutting themes. Of particular relevance are: Article 6 General measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use (5%), Article 7 Identification and Monitoring (15%), Article 8 *In-situ* Conservation (5%) ,Article 10 Sustainable use of components of Biological Diversity (10%), Article 11 Incentive measures (5%), Article 12 Research and Training (10%), and Crosscutting themes Ecosystems approach (5%) Forest Biodiversity (15%), Indicators (10%) Protected Areas (15%), Sustainable Use and Biodiversity (15), Biodiversity and Tourism (5%)

12. How does this project meet a clearly identifiable biodiversity need or priority defined by the host country? Please indicate how this work will fit in with National Biodiversity Strategies or Environmental Action Plans, if applicable.

Within the CEPF Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot profile, Fiji has the richest biodiversity and the greatest number of threatened species after Hawai'i and French Polynesia. Eleven species of Fijian avifauna are threatened with extinction and another six are classified as Near Threatened. These include charismatic species such as the Pink-billed Parrotfinch, Long-legged Warbler and Silktail, all restricted to old-growth forest. About half of Fiji's forests have been lost through clearance for agriculture and through repeated fires, and large areas of remaining forest have been heavily degraded. The 1990–93 Natural Forest Inventory provided an accurate estimate of the forest cover based on satellite imagery. Deforestation rates of between 0.5–0.8% per year are probably the most accurate but do not measure forest degradation. The reasons for forest loss are economic pressures on subsistence communities, resulting in logging, , exotic plantations and clearance for agriculture. This typically occurs where there are no alternatives to generating sustainable and non-degrading income streams from forest resources.

This project will directly build on BirdLife-led projects, and will broadly enhance professional and community capacity in existing and new projects. Work undertaken in the marine and terrestrial environment indicates that communities at all levels welcome support for sustainable management. However, the less direct link between protection and community income of the forest environment indicates that there is a need for community capacity development in this area. Although the community engagement model is well developed, there is a lack of terrestrial biologists with the skills and knowledge to implement biodiversity conservation projects and ensure long term viability. Recent terrestrial work has shown the potential to develop professional and community capacity is considerable, but has also highlighted limitations. Short implementation time does not provide sufficient time to develop community skills while the applauded Sovi Basin initiative is limited as a replicable model due to cost. The proliferation of marine projects is reflected in the skills base of the cohort of young biologists in Fiji but the number of terrestrial ecologists are severely limited. Currently only two Fijians can be classed as competent ornithologists, and both were trained under the previous BirdLife-implemented Darwin project.

The Fiji NBSAP, produced in 1999, identifies as its goal *To conserve and sustainably use Fiji's terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, and to maintain the ecological processes and systems which are the foundation of national and local development.* This goal is underpinned by a series of 19 guiding principals and six foci encompassing thematic objectives. This proposed Darwin Initiative project was developed closely with the stakeholder-agreed objectives of the NBSAP and is directly relevant to 17 of the 19 guiding principals and all six of the foci. Of the guiding principles, four are of particular relevance: 10) *The establishment of a comprehensive and representative system of reserves and conservation areas at the national and local levels is critical to successful biodiversity conservation;* 11) *The conservation and sustainable management of Fiji's natural forests is the single most important means of conserving the vast majority of Fiji's endemic fauna and flora;* 15) *Biodiversity conservation is a specialised discipline which requires advanced training, skills and international collaboration and* 18) *Biodiversity conservation initiatives should be implemented in a way that local communities - men and women and youth are actively involved in their planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.* These core principles underpin the rationale of the project: to arm Fiji conservation professionals and local communities with the skills to take forward protected area management.

The foci and objectives relate to the project in the following ways:

Focus 1 Community support, awareness, involvement and ownership

The project will build community awareness, both directly through project training activities and indirectly

through the development of conservation professionals.

Focus 2: Improving our Knowledge

Knowledge will be improved in a number of key areas that interrelate to other foci and will be enhanced in the development of protected areas, technical and scientific capacity, management planning and fundraising. It also directly relates to numerous objectives e.g. 2.3 *Improve biodiversity studies in formal educational curricula.*

Focus 3: Developing Protected Areas

The development of protected areas will be the core activity and capacity development vehicle, with a milestone of successful establishment at four sites

Focus 4: Species Conservation

The development of IBA monitoring methodologies, including the identification of indicator species, survey and other associated ornithological methods will have a significant impact on the in country capacity to undertake species conservation.

Focus 5: Management of Invasive Species

The management of invasive species is explicitly linked with other project activities, through awareness, by the potential to use invasive alien species as indicators and particularly through sight safeguarding; disturbance including selective logging facilitates proliferation of alien species and maintenance of forest blocks is essential. Management planning training will include modules on the identification, management and abatement of alien species

Focus 6: Capacity Building and Strengthening

As the crosscutting theme of this proposed Darwin Initiative project is capacity building, this fits closely with the NBSAP statement that *the Fiji Government will need a cadre of qualified and dedicated specialists in the field of biodiversity and natural resource management.*

13. If relevant, please explain how the work will contribute to sustainable livelihoods in the host country.

In 1994, the total value of Fiji's ecosystem services was F\$ 973 million (GBP325M), representing over 42% of the 1994 Fiji GDP: for tropical moist forest the values are estimated as climate regulation F\$246 M (GBP82M), water regulation and supply F\$15.45 M (GBP5.2M), raw materials provision F\$65.9 M (GBP22M) & biodiversity preservation F\$11.03 M (GBP4M). The value of old growth forests is particularly appreciated by communities for traditional forest products and clean drinking water. However, damaging activities have resulted in significant forest loss and degradation. Concerns exist over the relatively poor financial returns of mahogany plantations (for communities) and the extent of resource degradation and great interest exists in alternatives. The communities at both Koroyanitu and Bouma Heritage Parks have benefited tangibly from low-level tourism and the commitments to conservation rather than logging of their forests conservation principals has been maintained. However, heavy infrastructure investment, including the development of lodges and roads has not markedly enhanced the tourism product above basic visiting and guiding. This is illustrative that ecotourism development is a slow evolving process and is most effectively initiated by grass roots capacity development.

The proposed Darwin Initiative project will contribute to sustainable livelihoods in Fiji in a number of ways, both directly during the lifetime of the project and through the development of a skills base to manage and develop protected areas. Initial measurable benefits will be from greater resource protection, i.e. the continued availability of forest products and clean water, and through the development of alternative sources of income that will result from direct training, for example, fundraising training will enhance capacity to raise small grants for management and enterprise based on sustainable principals. The PRA processes and M&E of capacity development will inform future decisions on low impact tourism linked activities. However, the real benefits to local communities will be longer term and delivered by the newly trained community members and conservation professionals, who will be armed with the skills to develop and manage PA for the benefit of Fiji's biodiversity and local communities.

14. What will be the impact of the work, and how will this be achieved? Please include details of how the results of the project will be disseminated and put into effect to achieve this impact.

There will be a number of clear impacts related to the main activities: the enhancement of professional capacity for terrestrial conservation, the development of community skills to implement protected area management planning and implementation, the improvement of protection for at least four high priority

forest blocks and the development of monitoring and technical methodologies.

- 1. Technical capacity of national conservation institutions built:** the project will use British expertise to build national and regional capacity in skills required for the long-term development and sustainability of protected areas. The training programme has been designed to train a broad base of conservation professionals but also provides the opportunity to develop much deeper skills and hands-on experience through postgraduate study, staff exchanges and employment. The project will ensure that up to 90 individuals, either working for conservation organisations or students, will receive thorough basic training in key methodologies. Specialists from the UK in PA management planning, fundraising and monitoring methodologies will lead the development of courses and the authorship of handbooks. Up to 10 individuals (5 placements, 2 students, 3 staff) will benefit from greater in-depth training from British experts and development over periods ranging between 1 month for secondments and exchanges and three years for Darwin Initiative project staff. (three Fijian nationals).
- 2. Technical capacity and resources of local conservation groups built at all project sites:** The trained trainers will take their skills forward to community groups. Following the same principle basic training of up to 120 community members will be broad covering biodiversity values, threats and conservation context, followed by the in-depth training of a subset of these in protected area management planning and related topics; this training will represent an unprecedented development of community capacity.
- 3. Improved conservation & natural resource management plans agreed by target communities:** will directly enhance the protected status of four priority sites, though the democratic process of communities declaring protected area status prior to government gazetting. This will link closely with the training activities and plans will be developed as models using BirdLife expertise.
- 4. Monitoring framework created and used for indicators of threatened biodiversity:** this activity will have a significant regional and national impact. Currently no standardised, terrestrial monitoring procedures are established so this project will develop a best-practice model that will be tested and refined and can be adapted regionally; the development of skills related to monitoring procedures including identification, sampling methods and ornithological techniques.

The project will maintain a high profile and results will be disseminated through a number of channels targeted towards different audiences: Technical outputs and findings aimed at conservation practitioners, (including relevant government staff, other NGO staff and students) will be disseminated through workshops (including the BirdLife Pacific Partnership meeting where other conservation NGOs not directly involved in the project can benefit from the lessons learnt through this project) lecture courses, hands-on experience with mentoring and the dissemination of technical handbooks. Dissemination of results and information to communities will be through a range of sources, including community meetings and presentations, the provision of materials including posters, leaflets and technical handbooks. Regionally, results will be disseminated through the circulation of a project updates through periodic regional newsletters and SPREP the provision of materials and through staff exchanges. In addition, a public media profile will be maintained, including targets for TV, radio features, newspaper and the quarterly national village newsletter (*Na Mata*) will have a report in every issue.

15. How will the work leave a lasting legacy in the host country or region?

The recently completed Darwin Initiative project *Identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation importance* provides an indication of the long-lasting impact of similar scale projects upon capacity, hands-on conservation delivery and awareness. This previous Darwin Initiative project acted as a nucleus for a regional expansion of the site prioritisation by linking the capacity development process and directly led to the development of a grassroots programme of priority, site based, community conservation measures and a marked enhancement of capacity to undertake the work.

Fiji is a fertile ground for education programmes. With a large pool of graduates from USP, specific skills nevertheless remain scarce. Hence the legacy of this project is expected to be substantial and to reflect the key themes in the development of terrestrial conservation in Fiji and the region. This project will provide a cohort of young Fijian conservationists with key skills including management planning, fundraising and monitoring/technical methods, all areas that are currently under-represented. The training programme will also provide a long-lasting series of material outputs including three handbooks - key documents that will be effectively an implementation guide to support the recommendations of the identification process. The development of protected areas, and critically the community capacity to implement and perpetuate

management planning, will have direct and long-lasting effects on these sites but also will act as models for other sites. Given the level of community interest, it is anticipated that community groups could increase rapidly from the nucleus of four included within this Darwin Initiative project remit. This increase is accounted for by the development of a central support system for the community groups (see exit strategy). An additional benefit will be the advocacy legacy of the project. The IBA process is increasingly attracting the notice of some of the most senior and influential members of society who support processes that engender wise use of resources.

This project will also leave a considerable regional legacy, in part through the piloting of grassroots measures for site management and the dissemination of results, progress and lessons learned, but also through direct staff exchanges within the region with countries that are entering a phase of site-based biodiversity conservation work with local communities.

16. Please give details of a clear exit strategy and state what steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact and legacy.

Analysis of previous biodiversity conservation projects on Fiji the have revealed a number of lessons learned, on the positive side the success of MPAs and the interest of communities in forest conservation, and from the previous Darwin project, the gained skills are utilised and being shared. However, constraints have been noted, including that *magic bullets* do not exist for forest conservation and that successful conservation and sustainable use is a community driven, evolving process. Specific assumptions around this project focus on capacity availability: the capacity of conservation NGOs, Government and communities. This project specifically addresses these, focusing on *training the trainers*, the development of conservation professionals to engage, support and train community members. On the ground conservation will be progressed on 4 sites employing and refining the new found skills of conservation practitioners and multiplying the skills and knowledge in excess of 10 fold on these sites alone.

The exit strategy goes further than the provision and testing of the tool kit: one of the objectives of the Project Steering Group (PSG) is to identify and develop a central support body for site-based groups in place by the third year of the project. This central group will be democratically governed with the capacity to support individual community groups in key management areas, particularly with management planning and implementation, monitoring and reporting and fundraising, by the end of the project period. In the first year of the project, the PSG will begin to assess options for the formation of a central support body; a number of options currently exist, including the enhanced capacity development of an existing civil body or Government-linked NGO, or the formation of a civil society organisation. Following the assessment phase, a consultation of preferred options with other stakeholders, critically community groups, will be undertaken. Progressed training needs will be reviewed by the PSG in order to support the appropriate development of capacity. By the end of the project the central support group will have recruited at least one other community group with the project remit.

17. How will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways will the Darwin name and logo be used?

The Darwin Initiative will be promoted at three levels, national, regional and international. In Fiji, the BirdLife implemented Darwin project identifying IBAs developed a strong brand and wide recognition, by the wide use of the Darwin name, logo, media profile and events. This new Darwin Initiative project will build on this success. This project will have a formal press attended launch, to which project Partners

(including the relevant government agencies) and UK government staff based in Fiji will be invited. With the permission of the Darwin Initiative, we would like to prefix project staff titles with *Darwin* and supported students *Darwin Studentships* to enhance, identity and advertise the support of the initiative. Training courses and the resultant training certification will similarly be entitled *Darwin Training Courses*. All printed, electronic and presented outputs will be labelled with the Darwin name and logo. It is proposed that each site entry on the website and in printed outputs will feature the Darwin logo. Website entries will contain hyperlinks to the Darwin Initiative website. Printed outputs including , non-scientific articles and newsletters will feature the Darwin name and logo; scientific papers will acknowledge Darwin support. The Darwin Initiative objectives will be included as an introductory element in training courses and Darwin T-shirts will also be produced for trainers and community groups emphasising the Darwin logo. Internationally the profile will be maintained through BirdLife publications including World BirdWatch and an unprecedented opportunity is presented to raise the profile of Pacific and Pacific birds in 2006. Parrots of the Pacific is the theme of the British Birdwatching Fair and the Darwin logo, and the contribution the Darwin Initiative has made to Pacific conservation will be strongly promoted at the British Birdwatching Fair that is to be held in the UK in August 2006.

18. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate who the trainees will be and criteria for selection and that the level and content of training will be. How many will be involved, and from which countries? How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length and dates (if known) of any training course. How will trainee outcomes be monitored after the end of the training?

Capacity development is the crosscutting and predominant theme of four project activities and will target all levels from conservation professionals (government staff and to community members. The main training themes are the development of technical capacity amongst conservation professionals, in the areas of management planning, fundraising/support of sustainable livelihoods and monitoring/scientific methods. In addition it will also develop hands on training through student projects that will test pilot methodologies, these results feeding back into and influencing the refined methodology. The other major theme will be to build the capacity of communities to manage natural resources, both by direct training and the use of developed conservation professionals and newly trained conservation professionals which will multiply the project's impact and increase the project's legacy.

Training activities and outputs:

1. Training needs agreed with staff and collaborating institutions: a participatory process agreed through the PSG will finalise tailored training programmes for conservation professionals and students (months 1-3).
2. Hands-on training by British staff of three Fijian National project staff who will receive training throughout the duration of the project on protected area management planning, technical and monitoring methods and fundraising. The skills base of some of these staff exists, but not in all areas. Including a full time *Darwin Trainee Monitoring Officer* selected through thorough recruitment procedures. The ideal candidate will have a science degree and will show enthusiasm and the ability to learn. The training will be to the highest level and staff will act as multipliers by training conservation professionals and community members
3. National networking meetings will be organised on an annual basis and the BirdLife Pacific partnership meeting in 2008 will disseminate results of training and seek advice on future directions and regional applications
4. Technical advice, training, resources and other support mobilised for community groups in selected areas that express a willingness and commitment to the development of the PA process (ongoing for the duration of the project); 120 community members will receive training. This will primarily be undertaken by Fijian conservation professionals, who have themselves been trained by British project staff and conservation professionals. The training programmes will initially consist of short introductory courses of 1-3 days on more basic topics (e.g. bird identification/the value of biodiversity) followed by basic level monitoring/indicators, fundraising and management planning. Motivated individuals will be selected for intensive training through extended courses, community group exchanges and mentoring.
5. Placements (exchanges / secondments) of conservation professionals with similar projects: target of 5 individuals with training time of a minimal of 1 month (in country) or 3 months (regional). These exchanges/ secondments will be either between projects and organisations within Fiji with Fijian nationals or exchanges with regional partners. Exchanges with Partners in Palau, New Caledonia and French Polynesia are prioritised because of the strategic advantage in developing PA management and associated skills in countries completing prioritisation processes.

6. 20 X conservation workers receive training in monitoring/ indicators/fundraising/ management planning through workshops, training courses developed by visiting UK specialists and practical experience. These individuals would be selected through short-listing and agreement with partners.
7. 30 X undergraduates from USP receive training in monitoring/ indicators/fundraising/ management planning through courses and practical experience.
8. 20 postgraduates from USP receive training in monitoring/ indicators/fundraising /management planning through courses and practical experience.
9. Posters (x 4) and leaflets (x 4) aimed at communities in relevant themes and targeted to sites.
10. Training manuals: fundraising handbook for professionals and communities (July 07), PA management planning handbook July 08; monitoring and ornithological methods handbook (Mar 09) will be written by visiting specialists.
11. 2 x Pacific students attain masters degrees on development of monitoring methodologies.

The underlying principles of trainee selection will be that motivated and dedicated individuals will be selected who show a commitment to working in conservation. Selections will be agreed with appropriate governing individuals, for example the national managers of NGOs, university lecturers and community leaders. The selection procedure will be progressively more rigorous for larger investments in training time, a formal interview and selection procedure will be undertaken for Masters students, recruited staff and secondments. Training will be led and organised by the British project manager, and will employ the skills a minimum of 5 UK based BirdLife Secretariat collaborators leading training and development in specialist areas, particularly PA management, fundraising and technical methods of IBA monitoring and ornithological methodologies.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation of biological diversity • the sustainable use of its components, and 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. 			
Purpose Local conservation groups are developed and effectively conserving key terrestrial biodiversity conservation sites in Fiji	At least 3 out of 4 target sites with new conservation and sustainable development policies At least 3 out of 4 target sites with reduced biodiversity loss over project period	Community-declared policies Monitoring reports	Community reps truly represent community views Conservation and sustainable development is economically viable
Outputs 1. Technical capacity of national conservation institutions built 2. Technical capacity and resources of local conservation groups built at all project sites 3. Improved conservation & natural resource management plans agreed by target communities 4. Monitoring framework created and used for indicators of threatened biodiversity 5. Awareness and publicity	Number of technical people trained by project (1) Number of people in local conservation groups trained by project (2.1) Resources raised by local conservation groups (2.2) At least 3 out of 4 communities agree improved conservation & sustainable development plans (3) Monitoring framework developed by end of Year 1 (4.1) At least 3 out of 4 local conservation groups undertaking monitoring (4.2) Number of published articles (5)	Project reports Regional meeting reports (1,4.1) Community visit reports (2.1) Project and community-based conservation support group accounts (2.2) Model monitoring framework (4.1) Monitoring reports (4.2) Copies of publications (5)	Sufficient government and NGO capacity for full collaboration Donors continue to resource community activities at PAs Communities able to develop sustainable management policies Communities have the capacity to monitor IBAs/PAs
Activities 1. UK staff train Fijian conservation professionals in capacity-building, technical advice, project management and fund-raising skills 2. Fijian staff train local groups in technical knowledge and monitoring, development and advocacy of management plans, and resource-raising 3. UK and Fijian staff and local groups develop, agree, advocate and implement community natural resource management plans 4. UK and Fijian staff and local groups design, train and undertake monitoring programmes 5. Awareness and publicity to aid community groups, and project model extension	Activity milestones (summary of project implementation timetable) 1. Training needs agreed with staff and collaborating institutions (months 1-3); hands-on training by UK staff (ongoing); national/regional training / networking meetings (annual); exchanges with similar projects (total 4); fund-raising training manual produced (month 12); PA management plan training manual produced (month 24); funding proposals submitted (months 24-36) 2. Local stakeholder meetings at all project sites (months 2-12); local conservation groups established at enthusiastic communities (months 3-18); community needs assessment (months 3-18); technical advice, training, resources and other support mobilised for community groups (ongoing); rolling community meetings supported (months 4-30); <u>broad biodiversity value training (4 –18) Targeted training (6-34)</u> community groups helped to raise resources for activities (months 6-34); <u>Assessment of central support group options (months 12-24). Agreement reached on central support group structure and function central group progressively takes over active support role (month 24-36)</u> 3. PRA / PLA assessments and visioning with all interested communities (months 2-12); draft resource management plans agreed (months 3-18); technical support for resource management (ongoing); resource management plans revised and agreed (months 6-30); management plans implemented (months 6-36). 4. Information collated (month 1-3); <u>technical workshop to agree potential best indicators/training need (months 3-6); staff training (months 6-24); establish MSc students on methodology development (6-30); training of community groups (months 12-24); analysis and redesign of methods (months 25-30); conclusions agreed and disseminated at workshop (month 30); manual/ monitoring/ornithological methods hand book published (30 – 36).</u> 5. National publicity when each local conservation group created, when management plans agreed, and at major steps in implementing management plans (ongoing); dialogue with potential new local groups (months 18-36); manuals and other best practice tools discussed, published and disseminated (months 30-36).		

20. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year	Key milestones
06 July – 06 Sept	Apr-Mar 2006/7	Training needs agreed with staff and collaborating institutions (months 1-3)

<p>06 July- 06 Sept</p> <p>06 July - ongoing</p> <p>06July - ongoing</p> <p>06July - ongoing</p> <p>06July - ongoing</p> <p>06July – ongoing</p> <p>06July – ongoing</p> <p>06 Aug – 07 June</p> <p>06 Aug – 07 June</p> <p>06 Sept – 08 Mar</p> <p>06 Sept – 08 Mar</p> <p>06 Nov – 09 Mar</p> <p>06 Sept – Mar 08</p> <p>06 Oct – 09 Apr</p> <p>07 Jan– Apr 09</p> <p>06 Dec – Apr 09</p> <p>06 Dec – Jun 09</p>		<p>Information collated on sites including biological aspects, community tenure and on skill bases and gaps (month 1 -3)</p> <p>hands-on training by UK staff (ongoing)</p> <p>national/regional training / networking meetings through BirdLife Partner meetings</p> <p>staff exchanges with similar projects</p> <p>technical advice, training, resources and other support mobilised for community groups (ongoing);</p> <p>technical support for natural resource management (ongoing);</p> <p>National publicity when each local conservation group created, when PA management plans agreed, and at major steps in implementing PA management plans (months 6 -36);</p> <p>Local stakeholder meetings at all project sites (months 2-12)</p> <p>PRA / PLA assessments and visioning with all interested communities (months 2-12);</p> <p>local conservation groups established at enthusiastic communities (months 3-18);</p> <p>community needs assessment (months 3-18)</p> <p>rolling community meetings supported (months 4-30)</p> <p>broad biodiversity value training (4 –18)</p> <p>Targeted training (6-34)</p> <p>community groups helped to raise financial resources for activities at PAs/IBAs (month 6-34)</p> <p>PA (natural resource) management plans revised and agreed (months 6-30); natural resource management plans implemented (months 6-36).</p>
<p>07 Jun</p> <p>07Jul – 08 Jul</p> <p>07Jul – 08 Jun</p> <p>07Jul – 08 Jun</p> <p>08 Dec – June 09</p>	<p>Apr-Mar 2007/8</p>	<p>fund-raising training manual produced (month 12)</p> <p>draft PA / resource management plans agreed (month 12-24)</p> <p>staff training in survey methods (months 12-24)</p> <p>training of community groups (months 12-24)</p> <p>Assessment of central support group options (months 12-24).</p> <p>dialogue with potential new local groups</p>
<p>08 July – 09 July</p> <p>08 Jul</p> <p>08 Jul – 09 Jul</p> <p>08 Jul – 09 Jul</p> <p>08 Jul 08 Oct</p> <p>08 Oct</p> <p>08 Oct - Jun 09</p>	<p>Apr-Mar 2008/9</p> <p>Apr-Mar 2009/2010</p>	<p>Agreement reached on central support group structure, function central group progressively takes over active support role for willing participants</p> <p>management plan training manual produced (month 24)</p> <p>Fundraising strategies produced for each PA management plan</p> <p>x4 Funding proposals submitted x12</p> <p>funding proposals submitted (months 24-36)</p> <p>synthesis, analysis and redesign of methods (months 25-30)</p> <p>conclusions discussed, agreed and disseminated at workshop (month 30).</p> <p>Monitoring/ornithological method handbooks and other best practice tools discussed, published and disseminated (months 30-36).</p>

21. Set out the project's measurable outputs using the separate list of output measures.

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month	Standard output number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc.)
2006 Jul ongoing	15A	Press releases in Fiji at milestones and outputs (x c18)
2006 Jul ongoing	15C	UK press releases at each major milestone (x c4)
2006 Jul ongoing	18A	National TV stations contacted at each major milestone (xc8)

2006 Jul ongoing	19A	National radio contacted at each presentation/ output (x c12)
2006 Jul ongoing	8	UK staff and consultants visit region for training (x6)
*	*	*
2006 Jul 07 Jul	5	Full time <i>Darwin Trainee IBA Monitoring Officer</i> recruited, full time training of two existing staff commences
2006 Sep ongoing	6A	Exchanges / secondments with similar projects, 5 individuals, minimal total training c9months. Nationalities, Fijian Palauan, New Caledonian, French Polynesian.
06 Sep – ongoing	5	20X conservation professionals receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising/ PA management planning- Fijian
06 Sep - ongoing	4A	30X undergraduates receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising/ PA management planning- Fijian or Pacific
06 Sep - ongoing	4C	20 postgraduates receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising / PA management planning Fijian or Pacific
06 Sep - ongoing	6A	120 Community members receive training in monitoring/ indicators/ fundraising/ PA management planning Fijian
06 Sep - ongoing	14A	Conferences/presentations to all stakeholders (incl. land-owners) x c18
06 Sept - ongoing	14B	Project results disseminated to all relevant gatherings x c12
*	*	*
2006 Sep ongoing	17A	Regional experts and institutions invited to contribute to project (PSG) and training syllabus disseminated
2006 Sep ongoing	17B	National networking meetings (annual), regional training (minimum 1 meeting) results circulated
2006 Sep ongoing	na	Enhancement of other similar networks (SPREP) x c12
2006 Dec –Dec 08		Community groups MOA agreed and circulated
*	*	*
2007 Jul – 09 Mar	7	Posters (x 4) and leaflets (x 4) aimed at communities in relevant themes and targeted to sites
2007 Jul – 09 Mar	7	Training manuals: fundraising handbook for professionals and communities (July 07) Management planning handbook (July 08), Monitoring an ornithological methods Mar 09.
2008 July – 09 Jul	na	Fundraising strategies produced for each PA management plan x4
2008 July – 09 Jul		Funding proposals submitted x12
2008 July – 09 Jul		PA (resource management) plans published (x4)
2008 July – 09 Jul	na	Central support group agreed and formalised (charter/MOAs) & progressively takes over active management
*	*	*
2009 Jan	2	2x Pacific students submit masters degrees on development of monitoring methodologies
2009 Mar	7	Training hand book on monitoring an ornithological methodologies
2009 Jun	11A/B	New methods and results published as reviewed papers x c3
*	*	*
2009 Jun	20	Computers, office equipment and eqpt estimated at GBP 3,675
2009 Jun	23	Total amount of co-finance raised for project est. at GBP 163,317
2009 Jun	na	Total resources for project follow-ups - aiming for GBP120,000

PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

22. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

Technical monitoring and evaluation will be served by regular meetings and email discussions by the PSG of local and international experts. Local monitoring and evaluation will be a responsibility of the Fijian project supervisor. Meeting objectives and indicators will be under day-to-day responsibility of the National Co-ordinators. Detailed workplans will aid monitoring. Six-monthly progress reports will be produced, checked and reviewed by the PSG of local and international experts. Financial monitoring is under the day-to-day responsibility of Pacific Partnership Financial Manger and Regional Director. Technical financial back-up

from the UK BirdLife Secretariat, and annual financial audits are budgeted. The workplan, sub-objectives, indicators and log-frame are subject to revision based on submissions by the PSC to funders. Monitoring and evaluation of professional training courses and placements will be undertaken by 1) feedback sought at the time through questionnaires and by interviews with partner managers and staff. Monitoring of the community training will be assessed by the number of individuals undertaking basic training, the numbers progressing to advanced training and by assessment of knowledge and capacity through informal interviews and discussions with community leaders. Outputs will be assessed on the basis of targets specified: training manuals, papers and articles. Internal project reports, training reports, appraisals, audits, annual reports to governments. Project newsletter (six-monthly) awareness and educational materials.