## **Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report**

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No. 15/041

**Project Title** The Waria Valley Community Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods

Programme

Country(ies) Papua New Guinea

**UK Organisation** Coral Cay Conservation

Collaborator(s) UK - JFA Ltd

PNG- Bris Kanda, Village Development Trust, University of Technology,

Forest Research Institute.

Project Leader Peter Raines

Report date 2 December 2008

Report No. (HYR

1/2/3/4)

HYR 3

**Project website** http://www.coralcay.org/index.php?option=com\_content&task=blogc

ategory&id=149&Itemid=511

## 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).

The majority of works was completed as per the milestones timetable for the last 6 months.

April – Stakeholder forum completed

May – Schools programme was evaluated, and ongoing material changes are being progressed. The ecotourism centre was not opened (as per plan)

June – Biodiversity surveys were ongoing (though still catching up from delays in yr1). Third phase of schools programme was initiated. GPS and field level mapping work had commenced but GIS yet to be developed

July – Guide training continued as per plan

Aug - a review of the restorations work was undertaken

Oct – a stakeholder forum was completed

With respect to outputs:

April – biodiversity surveys were continuing. GIS had not been developed at this date.

May – Eco-tourism centre was not receiving tourists as per the plan

July – Guide training had continued

Oct – Review of eco-activities continued with partners and stakeholders

With respect to Log-Frame it is expected that the following will be delivered by the end of yr3:

10 x local counterparts trained

GIS database developed

Biodiversity surveys completed.

As of this report, the project is still yet to train the additional 10 students in yr3, as well as commence/complete the eco-forestry and eco-tourism components of the project.

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 project has had ongoing problems with respect to the following:

- i) Issuance of research visas, permitting staff to work on the project. This has delayed field activities, notably the biodiversity and GIS work. We have change the survey plans and collaborated with UPNG on the GIS in order to minimise project impacts. It is expected that the biodiversity work will be completed by the end of the project.
- The eco-forestry component has yet to be initiated due to lack of co-finance and partner support. However the project now plans to work with FORCERT in order to implement this aspect of the project, thus minimising cost and risk exposure to DI and project partners. More details are given in response to end of yr2 report comments. The eco-forestry work will have commenced but will not be completed (as per original plan) by the end of the project.
- iii) Ecotourism Lodge this has been delayed due to fluctuating community support/interest. The project has now engaged the support and expertise of a local eco-tourism consultant (working with BK) in order to resolve outstanding issues regarding planning, community involvement and benefit sharing. It is anticipated that the lodge will still be completed by the end of the project.
- iv) The GIS work had been significantly delayed as mentioned above (i), however this has now been partially resolved via collaboration with the University of PNG. CCC are also deploying more short-term staff to the field to assist with ground truthing work. It is expected that the GIS work will be completed by the end of the project.
- v) Land issues due to the nature of customary land tenure in PNG, on going land ownership disputes have hampered some of the survey work with field teams being denied access to some survey areas. Dispute positive interest, land has also been withdrawn from restoration activities due to family-level disputes. This has hampered the progress of the restoration work.
- vi) Transport the project has continued to be affected by the decreasing level of local boat transport. Our partners (BK) have bee unable to support the provision of boat transport (as originally agreed). Thus project staff have been reliant on 'public' boats to travel between the project site and Lae. These have become increasingly sporadic, contributing to delays and increased project costs.

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

No changes have been made to original agreement. We are requesting a change to certain sections relating to project financing. These will be detailed in section 3, below. The change request will also be detailed in the attached Change request form.

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?

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.