

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	21-001
<b>Project Title</b>	Developing a conservation action plan for Samoa's little dodo- the Manumea or Tooth-billed pigeon
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Samoa
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Australian National University
<b>Partner(s)</b>	The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
<b>Project Leader</b>	Rebecca Stirnemann
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	www.samoanbirds.com twitter: Rebecca Stirnemann (@samoanbirds)   Twitter facebook: endangered birds blog: medium.com/@rebeccastirnemann
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	DEFRA

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

#### *Output 1- Research concerning manumea biology, threats determined, sites for further conservation effort selected*

- 1.1 *Manumea surveys undertaken-* Surveys have been completed across Samoa. Visual surveys led to Manumea sightings at 4 sites. 72 automatic sound recorders were used at the same time. Hunters took part in surveys - see output 3.2. The recordings will form a baseline for future monitoring and success of management techniques on the Manumea population. We are now refining the automated methods for analysis of this large dataset in collaboration with Massey University.
- 1.2 *Site identification for further research/conservation action -* Sites important for the species have been identified. Lowland areas appear particularly critical for conservation with most sightings occurring in the few remaining lowland sites.
- 1.3 *Radio-tracking of Manumea-* The aim of this activity was to gain information on the spatio-temporal usage of habitat by manumea. However the species was extremely difficult to catch and, following advice from the Manumea action group, we stopped trying to catch the birds and instead put effort into collecting spatial information using alternative methods (see Output 1.1). As a result of altering the methods indicator 3- "At least 3 Manumea tracked with radio transmitters" should alter to "spatial information on the Manumea collected from across the country".

#### **Output 2- Management of invasive species trialled and management plan established**

- 2.1 *Sites selected for future conservation effort-* Sites have been selected in Saleloga, Savaii and in Malololelei, Upolu.
- 2.2 *Cats and rats controlled in 50ha area in 2-6 week period prior to the start of the breeding season-* In collaboration with partners at SPREP, MNRE and Auckland Zoo we have developed a pest control

plan for the Malololelei district. Further plans to increase the site to 100ha and to undertake pest continuous pest control due to manumea having a long breeding season over most of the year and large movements. This will also benefit other endangered species and improve restoration efforts. Thus far the spatial plans have been developed and the techniques have been determined. The project has been costed and the necessary control equipment identified. We are still clarifying the poison requirements and necessary permits. We have obtained funding for the first year of pest control from The Pacific Development Conservation Trust (PDCT) with further funds promised upon success. Clarification of roles for implementation and meetings with the Catholic Church who own some of the land are yet to occur. Partners such as SPREP and Auckland zoo have agreed to undertake the training of local staff in pest control techniques.

### **Output 3- Pigeon hunting bans and logging restrictions for key villages developed using participatory methods-**

This output was altered after interviewing hunters, vendors and consumers in Samoa, as well as analysing consumption data collected across Samoa from 2348 households. Our results showed Manumea are shot as by-catch while hunting Pacific pigeons and highlighted the commodity chain and points of potential intercept. Analysis of consumption data showed that the wealthiest tenth percentile in Samoa consumed 43% of all pigeons. Furthermore, the wealthiest 40% consumed 79.5% of all pigeons. We are further exploring reducing consumption, and therefore demand, as a conservation measure.

#### *3.1 Development of short education program on Manumea and forest preservation*

This activity was included in the hunting surveys. However we are also developing education materials for schools.

Future outputs:

- 1) A children's book is currently being developed on the Manumea. Saving the manumea through forest conservation and reducing pigeon hunting are key themes. The book will be given to schools in areas targeted to reduce consumption/hunting.
- 2) We are also working with Auckland Zoo to develop a campaign to reduce hunting. This will be presented to the government for input.

#### *3.2 Discussion with key village chiefs and relevant groups over forest preservation and reduction of pigeon hunting at specific sites*

We have been working with a number of hunters both undertaking surveys and in the field. In addition consultations have been undertaken in three villages in Upolu and eight in Savaii at the same time as the hunting surveys. Hunting surveys have been completed and the consumption pathway of pigeons has been isolated.

#### *3.3 Local native tree planting program established to benefit Manumea in collaboration with the forestry department and the involved villages*

We have been working with Faleseela to replant a Manumea conservation area in their catchment area.

### **Output 4- The capacity of the local conservation NGO has been enhanced**

#### *4.1 Additional staff hired and trained for SCS*

- Staff have attended training events to build capacity- Governance training (3 people attended) and financial training (1 person attended). All attendees were women.
- The project leader has also provided grant and donor training to both SCS staff members.

#### *4.2 Funds applied for to ensure the sustainable future of the organisation*

- The Project Leader applied for a grant for funds for the pest control program and it has been awarded to the NGO. A donor was also successfully approached to ensure pest control could continue long-term. Additionally long-term funding for a staff member were discussed. Six additional grants have been developed and written by the project leader for the NGO. The latter are still being processed by the NGO and have not all been submitted to the donors.

- We are applying for Darwin Initiative Fellowship Awards for Fialele Enoka (Staff at MNRE on project) and Moeumu Uili (Staff at MNRE on project and SCS Secretary) to enable them to develop further in their conservation careers. Both are dedicated to conservation - it is critical to the survival of the Manumea that the capacities of these two local conservationists are built so they have further skills for implementing conservation.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.**

This project has highlighted the importance of having a clear governance structures for the NGO and project implementers. It is important that these are further developed to ensure the NGO can be sustained into the future.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: /No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. 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 can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**