

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	29-005
Project title	Safeguarding Rennell Island Livelihoods and Biodiversity from Invasive Species
Country/ies	Fiji & Solomon Islands
Lead Partner	BirdLife International
Project partner(s)	Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association
Darwin Initiative grant value	£415, 193.00
Start/end dates of project	01/06/2022 – 31/03/2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2023 – March 2024 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Steve Cranwell
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Miliana Ravuso, Steve Cranwell, BirdLife International George Tauika, Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association 30 April 2024

1. Project Summary

East Rennell is part of Rennell Island, the southernmost island of the Western Pacific and part of the Solomon Islands Group. It is the only World Heritage Site (ERWHS) in the Solomon Islands, having been enlisted in 1998. The ERWHS covers roughly 30% of Rennell’s ecological diversity, boasting high levels of endemism, including 13 birds, 11 bats, 109 plants, and 7 land snails. Lake Tegano which spans 15,000 hectares within East Rennell, is the largest lake in the insular Pacific and is the main attraction behind the World Heritage Site (WHS). The lake hosts a few endemic species, including a distinct snake species. The ERWHS was designated as ‘in danger’ in 2013, due to various issues, such as the absence of Protected Area (PA) status, limited economic prospects, minimal perceived benefits from WHS recognition which increased the risk of future logging activities and the invasion of invasive alien species (IAS) brought on by the mining and logging operations in West Rennell. The traditional ways of life, for what seems to be a decreasing number of residents, i.e. now less than 800 people across the four ERWHS villages, are focused on subsistence farming, fishing, small-scale handicrafts, and crop sales. In 2018, following a study by BirdLife International (BLI), villagers of East Rennell highlighted the detrimental state of their gardens, small-scale farms and varying levels of crop yields and productivity. This was attributed to the increasing spread of Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) across the entire Rennell Island, which was an outcome of BLI’s 2018 study. As part of the same study, the

severe threat posed by rats to the native bird and fauna populations of ERWHS has been evaluated based on known impacts elsewhere. Inadequacies in preventing further IAS introductions were evident during the 2018 study, with the establishment of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and new invasive plant species exacerbating the risks to biodiversity and local livelihoods. This would have a direct impact to the food security of the ER communities, thus emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced biosecurity measures for the island of Rennell and neighbouring Bellona Island.

The project aims to tackle biodiversity challenges by showcasing the impact of Black rats on biodiversity indicators. This will be achieved through the implementation of rodent control plots in each of the four village forest areas. with particular focus on five endemic bird species and endemic snails considered exceptionally susceptible, thus serving as crucial indicators for safeguarding the natural values of ERWHS. By assessing these outcomes, the project will aim to develop island-wide biosecurity measures. Additionally, the project will seek to address human and well-being challenges, particularly food security by assessing the effects of Black rats on crop production and the establishment of savings clubs to improve financial security for the ERWHS women. Developing and empowering the capacity of local communities will be embedded across all elements of the project.

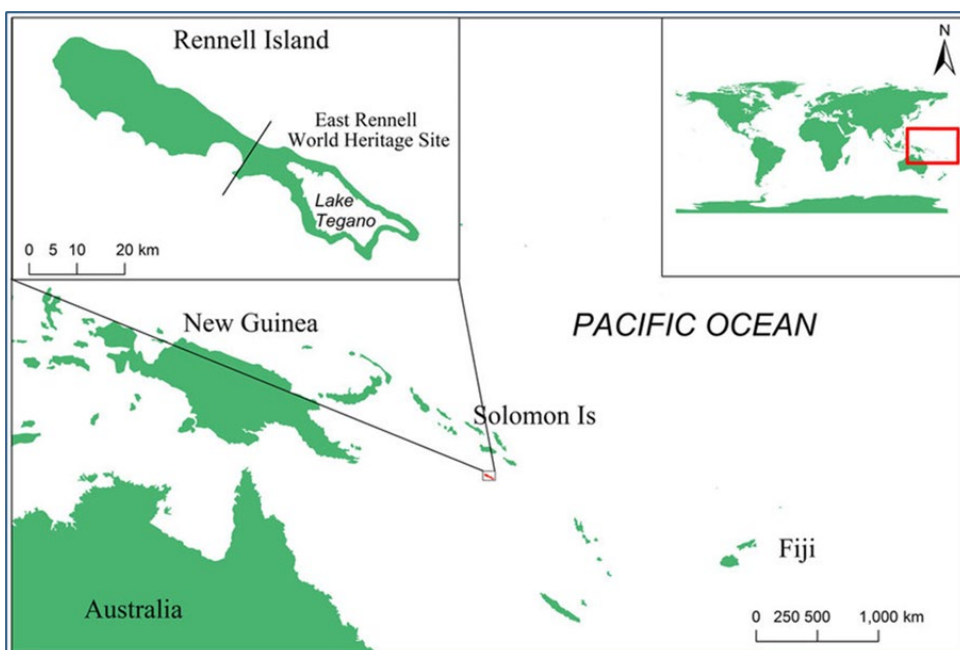


Figure 1. Location of the Solomon Islands Group and Rennell Island within that group. ERWHS covers nearly the entire southern half of the island, around one third of the island by land area.

Map Source: *Monitoring vegetation dynamics in East Rennell Island World Heritage Site using multi-sensor and multi-temporal remote sensing data* - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate.

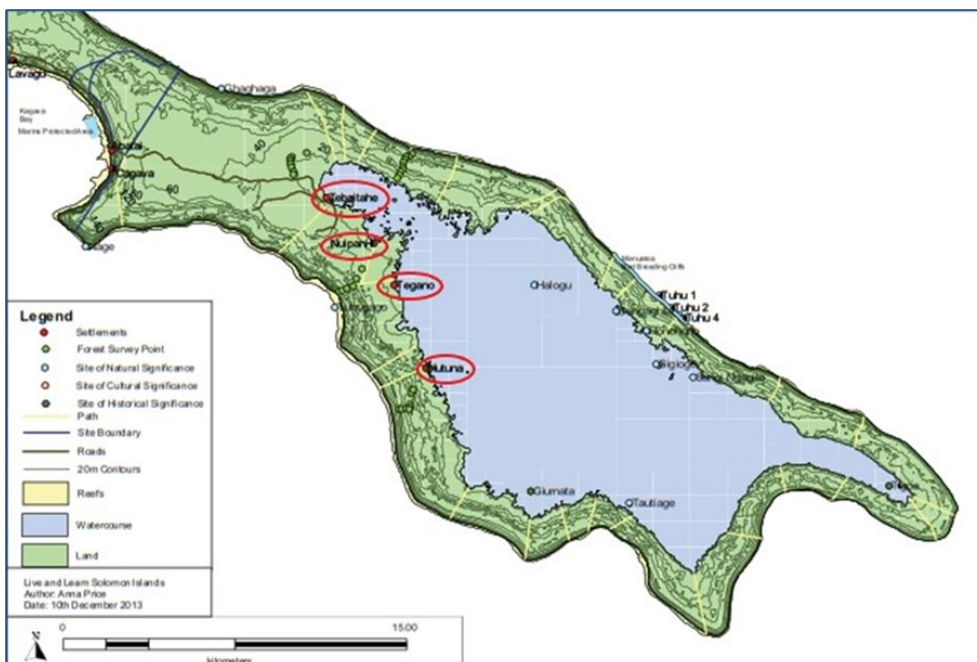


Figure 2. Map of sites of natural and historical significance in ERWHS, including location of 4 villages

Map Source: *Draft Management Plan East Rennell, 2014.*

2. Project Stakeholders/Partners

The partnership between BirdLife International (BLI) and the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) is now firmly established. This partnership began in 2018 as part of the BLI-led assessment and findings and recommendations of the assessment served as the foundation for the current project. The partnership has been strengthened with the implementation of the rodent control program to manage the impacts of Black Rats at the ERWHS and to develop mitigation strategies as a local response to the endangerment of the World Heritage Site (WHS). The LTWHSA has been instrumental in the delivery of project activities locally and they have been able to do so, despite limited resources, logistical challenges and competing time pressures faced by the ERWHS communities. LTWHSA Chairman and the Local Project Coordinator continues to manage the project on-site, coordinating activities with the four Local Rangers, the Local Consultants and BLI.

There has been excellent progress on the level of interaction with the Solomon Island Government (SIG). Senior Conservation Officers from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Mr Trevor Maeda and Ms. Nelly Kere have been actively participating in email dialogue, face-to-face meetings and zoom meetings. Mr Maeda visited East Rennell in August 2023 for a State-monitoring and evaluation visit organised by the LTWHSA. A complementary project supported by the Climate Change Division Team of the MECDM is looking to strengthen climate resilience through invasive species management and food security for the ERWHS communities. Mr Thaddeus Siota, Director for Climate Change Division and his Adaptation Team, Mr Henry Tufah, Mr Malachi Bate'e and Mr Marlchom Zion-Row are supporting the development of an Integrated Vulnerability Assessment plan for the ERWHS, which will address some of the climate change vulnerabilities currently faced by the East Rennell communities. A local consultant Jimmy Kereseke not formally recruited by the project, but supporting other elements of BLI work at East Rennell is leading on this work and has conducted a Participatory Rural Approach (PRA) assessment to source climate-related vulnerabilities and the effects of climate change on ERWHS coastal & land/agricultural resources. Community-led solutions have been recorded and preliminary findings have been shared with MECDM and BLI. This will ensure alignment to MECDM Climate Change Adaptation plans for Solomon Islands.

Collaboration with the MECDM team managing the GEF-6 funded project 'Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands' or [EREPA](#) has been extremely successful. EREPA National Coordinator Ms. Cathy Unga has met with BLI Project Manager Ms. Miliana Ravuso on various occasions to establish timelines for project implementation and ensure project actions are complementary. LTWHSA Chairman and Darwin Local Project Coordinator (LPC), Mr George Tauika has been managing the two projects well. As part of the collaborative efforts between BLI, LTWHSA, and EREPA over the past year, various complementary actions were undertaken. These included a site visit, commonly referred to as a 'Look & Learn Trip,' where representatives from East Rennell visited an EREPA project site in the Choiseul Province. In addition, BLI's Environmental Monitoring Plan for the ERWHS has been shared with the EREPA project team and biodiversity indicators and monitoring methods will be integrated into the ERWHS Management Plan, which is currently under review by the EREPA project.

A robust partnership has been developed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livelihoods and Biosecurity (MALB) to advance biosecurity objectives for Rennell and Bellona Provinces (RenBel Province). This has been led by Director of Biosecurity Mr. Francis Tsatsia with support from the Permanent Secretary, MALB and has culminated in the appointment of a Biosecurity Consultant, based at the Biosecurity Division.

Another key implementing partner, the Live & Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI) has been very supportive. Meetings between BLI Project Manager Ms. Miliana Ravuso, LLSI Country Manager Ms. Elmah Panisi and LLSI Project Manager Mr. Bill Apusae have been successful and has resulted in the co-facilitation of the LTWHSA Strategic Planning Workshop. Mr Bill Apusae assisted with the delivery of the workshop sessions in the local (pidgin) language and ensured that information was communicated and reported effectively.

3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out Project Activities

Activities 1.1 to 1.4 have been completed.

Activity 1.1 The Socio-economic Baseline Assessment for the four ERWHS villages was carried out by Local Consultant Christina Nasiu from August 15th to 18th 2023 with support from LPC George Tauika and Ms. Miliiana Ravuso from BLI. The assessment forms were developed with technical support from BLI Senior Manager, Communities & Livelihoods, in Cambridge, UK. Information collated from the assessment included the measure of household food consumption based on household gardens and the associated crop production and effects. The *Household Socioeconomic, Income and Wellbeing Survey Report* is attached as Annex 4.1.

Activity 1.2 The Local Project Coordinator, Mr George Tauika and 4 LTWHSA Local Rangers have been in place since August 2022 and leading on implementation and monitoring of the project on site (refer to AR1).

Activity 1.3 Following the procurement of the equipment for the rodent control program in August 2022, the items were shipped from New Zealand in November 2022 and after several delays, arrived on Rennell in April 2023. This equipment comprised track markers, galvanized nails, pack frames designed for carrying bait buckets or stations, 1180 units of Philproof mini bait stations, 48 units of Pestoff Rodent Blocks (containing brodifacoum) packed in 10kg pails, and 55 units of Pestoff 20R bait (totalling 900kgs). The delay in shipment provided the Local Rangers with additional time to thoroughly mark bait lines and GPS points for all bait locations around the four 1km² rat treatment grids (one per village) and the corresponding non-treatment (control) plots.

Activity 1.4 The Community-based Rodent Control Operational and Monitoring Plan has been shared with the LTWHSA, particularly the LPC George Tauika and the 4 Local Rangers. The Plan outlines the setup of the 1km² areas for rodent treatment and control in each of the 4 ERWHS villages, along with specific indicators for crops (such as kumara, taro, yams, papaya) and birds (like Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling) to gauge the impact of rat control. From March to April 2023, BLI Project Lead Steve Cranwell led a field trip to train the local Coordinator and 4 Rangers in crop and bird monitoring at both treatment and control sites, as well as aiding in the completion of rat control areas. BLI generated maps of the treatment plots using the GPS data supplied by the Local Rangers, enabling the team to assess the accuracy of bait line markings and GPS points. Upon reviewing the GPS maps, the Rangers identified corrections (re-alignments) that needed to be made to the bait grid lines. Considering this was their first experience with such an activity, the Local Rangers performed admirably in marking the bait grids and accurately GPS-marking each point within the grid. The Maps of Treatment and Non-Treatment sites with established bait grid lines within the 4 ERWHS village areas are provided in Annex 4.2. Baiting of the four rodent control plots began in May, with the last treatment area completed in late July. Since August 2023, the Local Rangers have sustained monthly replenishment of bait stations for the rat control and conducted monthly crop and quarterly bird monitoring in the treatment & non-treatment sites. The data has largely been provided according to the monitoring protocols although there have been some gaps in the formats, leading to challenges in transforming and analysing the data. Examples of monitoring data sheets received from the Rangers are shared as Annex 4.3.

As part of this monitoring regime, the four indigenous villages of the ERWHS are also encouraged to participate in the implementation of the program, this ensures that community members are continuously informed about the rodent control program. As a result, the skills and knowledge acquired by the Local Rangers through the training provided by BLI has cascaded down to community members. Following on from the previous reporting period, there have been an additional 150 indigenous community members engaged (as 'casuals') in the monitoring program and 40% of these have been women from the 4 villages.

Activity 1.5 The biodiversity monitoring data received includes;

- Rodent control assessed monthly as bait uptake, condition and replenishment.
- Crop condition assessed monthly for target species in gardens within the 4-rat management and non-treatment areas.

- Bird counts for all birds (5-minute point counts) and endemics (transects) in the 4-rat management and non-treatment areas.
- Remote cameras targeting nests of potentially vulnerable endemic species (primarily Shrikebill) in managed and non-treatment areas.

The rat control data indicates the suppression has been successful for most of each of the four treatment areas over the c.9-month period of baiting (following the initial knockdown). An increase in bait consumption (rat activity) followed a lapse in the replenishment in December and January and pockets of uptake either associated with reinvasion or potentially gaps between bait stations periodically in other months. Data is being transformed to allow bait consumption to be presented visually (as heat maps) for each month.

Crop condition has been assessed monthly since the baiting began albeit with some variability in frequency at some sites. The data is currently being transformed (from pictures, paper records etc.) into a format for analysis, but generally the results indicate little to no rat damage in the rat managed (treatment) areas, and more in the non-treatment areas and perhaps most notably for rat favoured crops like Kut Nut. Despite this, there appears to have been a spate of widespread damage (in treatment and non-treatment gardens) in February and March (2024), it may be associated with the lapse in bait replenishment in December/January (rangers were on break) or possibly a pulse of breeding and widespread food availability. Further crop monitoring and analysis of this data and bait consumption will make the effectiveness of the control program clearer.

Five-minute point counts and transect counts for endemic birds have been sustained in the treatment and non-treatment areas as per the bird monitoring methodology. With the rat control not having yet occurred over a full bird breeding 'season' little comparison is not yet possible however, species baselines in treatment and non-treatment areas are well informed with an early analysis, an example is attached as Annex 4.4. Transformation of the bird monitoring data is underway to enable a complete analysis. Improvements are also being made to data recording process to overcome the problems that have arisen.

Remote cameras have been deployed at nests that are relatively low to the ground, typically the Shrikebill with an open cup nest 1-3m above ground. Footage has been obtained from 6 nests, none of which showed evidence of rat interference or not having successfully fledged the chicks, although some shows visitation by Rennell Monitor lizards. The sample is very limited and greater investment is being made to detect and monitor nests.

Activity 1.6 The MSc research has faced a number of challenges, primarily in getting a study design the student is willing to support addressing the objective of quantifying rodent management for biodiversity or agricultural outcomes. A proposal has been developed to assess the response of geckos and skinks to the rodent control, however with the time this has taken BLI is now having to assess if it is possible to resource the research (with capacity/people and financially) in the available timeframe. Information to inform a decision has only now been received and will be made/evaluated in the next week.

Should a research project/MSc not be viable, an alternative option is to develop knowledge materials from the project and these would include, the importance of the ERWHS, the biological values, the threats posed by invasive species, a changing climate, and effects on livelihoods and the traditional way of life, alongside solutions to these (IAS management and climate adaptation). The resources would be developed for all schools in East Rennell.

Activity 2.1 has been completed; major progress has been made for Activities 2.2 to 2.4.

Activity 2.1 The Renbel Biosecurity Consultant (Coordinator) role is now in place and leading the development of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan, including its implementation, communication, and awareness. The scope and timeline for the development of the Plan was agreed to by Mr Patteson Akiu during a meeting with BLI Programme Manager Steve Cranwell on 26th January 2024. Following this, Mr Akiu, a former Deputy Director of SI Biosecurity Division, coordinated and engaged with key biosecurity stakeholders and given the wide range of stakeholders and their varying locations and stations, it was necessary to hold a separate workshop in Honiara. In the meantime, the Renbel Biosecurity Plan is being drafted, based on preliminary information gathered at the Honiara workshop.

Activity 2.2 A two-day Biosecurity Workshop was held on the 19th and 20th of March 2024 in Honiara. The Biosecurity Workshop identified the scope of a biosecurity response for Renbel Province, and these were informed through the participation of 15 representatives from the MALB Biosecurity Division, the Solomon Islands (SI) Biosecurity Development Programme, SI Ports Authority, Solomon Airlines, Kokonut Pacific SI, the Rennell Agriculture Extension Officer (also the Ministry-appointed Renbel Biosecurity Officer) and the LTWHSA Chairman & Local Project Coordinator, George Tauika. Opening remarks by the Deputy Secretary of the MALB, Ms. Elda Wate re-confirmed the SIG's commitment to ensuring biosecurity efforts remain a priority but could only be made possible with the financial and technical support of BLI and donors. Presentations at the workshop covered topics from legislation (SI Biosecurity Act 2013) and the critical roles each stakeholder has according to the Act, but don't necessarily have the resources and/or capacity to implement; to the existing pest and disease status in the SI, particularly those that are a priority for the Biosecurity Division. A key topic of discussion at the Biosecurity Workshop was the SI Biosecurity Internal Control (BIC) systems, its significance, necessity, who they key stakeholders were and the appropriate timing for implementation. A draft *Biosecurity Workshop Report* is attached as Annex 4.5. The Biosecurity Plan for Renbel will also address the capacity needs of stakeholders in support of which training in implementing the plan will be conducted with the Rennell and Bellona communities and other stakeholders on Rennell and Bellona. The expectation is to do the training by September 2024 but certainly before the end of Y3Q3.

Activity 2.3 and 2.4 Two key outcomes of the Biosecurity Workshop were the need to ensure that biosecurity priorities are incorporated into the *Rennell Bellona Province Resource Management and Environmental Protection Ordinance Draft (2023)*, a process which is being supported by Live and Learn SI (LLSI) and there was a shared understanding and agreement on the different communication products required to support the implementation and monitoring of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan. Biosecurity Consultant, Mr Akiu will work closely with the Biosecurity Division Publicity & Information Unit to ensure that all communications are focused on the identification of priority invasive alien species (IAS), its surveillance, detection, and relevant response procedures. All biosecurity communication materials will be made available and ready for dissemination before the end of Y3Q3 (Dec). Similarly, Mr Akiu will work with the LTWHSA to support the integration of biosecurity actions and response measures into the Provincial Ordinance, thus establishing a framework for the implementation and oversight of the Biosecurity Plan. This will be reported by the end of project.

Activities 3.1 to 3.3 and 3.5 are now complete; major progress has been made in Activity 3.4.

Activity 3.1 Local Consultant Christina Nasiu with support from BLI Project Manager Miliana Ravuso conducted the LTWHSA Capacity Needs Assessment between the 15th and 22nd August 2023. An informal workshop-type setting was organised to enable Committee members to participate willingly as this was the first time a needs assessment was conducted of the LTWHSA, and committee members saw the opportunity to voice their frustrations and concerns at the lack of support, primarily from the State, towards the development of the LTWHSA. More structured interviews using a questionnaire was conducted with 7 of the 12 Committee members; five Committee members were in Honiara at the time of the workshop. The Capacity Needs Assessment Report is attached as Annex 4.6.

Activity 3.2 A Capacity Development Plan for the LTWHSA has since been developed, based on the outcomes of the capacity needs assessment, this is attached as Annex 4.7. Three actions identified from the capacity needs assessment have been addressed, these are the project management and financial administration training which were conducted during the community project inception workshop in August 2022 and the governance and strategic planning workshops respectively, both of which were run consecutively from the 22nd to 24th March 2024.

Activity 3.3 An Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 4.8) has been produced and shared with the Rangers, who are now implementing monitoring protocols based on this Plan. As part of the monitoring protocols, the Rangers check & replenish bait in bait stations and are therefore able to control the population of Black Rats within the 100ha of rodent control plots within the forest areas around the 4 villages. The LPC collects monitoring data from the Rangers and submits monthly reports to BLI.

Activity 3.4 As part of the Capacity Needs Assessment in August 2023, the Kirkpatrick Four-Level Training Evaluation Model was used specifically to measure the effectiveness of the project management and financial administration training conducted with the LTWHSA during the project inception in August 2022. There were positive and encouraging responses for Level 1 and 2 respectively, i.e. Reaction and Learning. All members of the LTWHSA that were interviewed found the initial training valuable and have been able to apply these learnings on financial ethics and accountability to other areas, such as financial programs for church and school. LPC George Tauika has learnt a new procedure for submitting acquittals and report writing, with his reports to BLI now more structured and quite detailed. Whilst evaluating for Behavioural Change (Level 3 of model), specific gaps were identified, in that the lack of established procedures within the LTWHSA, and the culture and relationships that exist between members of the LTWHSA somewhat hinders the ability and the confidence of members to apply their skills and knowledge (in project management). LPC George Tauika has held the leadership position (Chairmanship with LTWHSA) for two consecutive terms and with his experience and knowledge built over the years, has earned the respect of the communities. Thus, with the lack of formal project management and reporting structures, prior to the Darwin project, Mr. Tauika took on the responsibility for overseeing all administrative tasks for the WHS, a role that was unanimously accepted by the communities. While this type of relationship and mutual respect is prevalent in Pacific Island indigenous communities, it can often become a deterrence for others to build their capacity. To this effect, a second project management and financial administration training is planned for Y3Q2 and will be targeted specifically for the LTWHSA Treasurer and Secretary roles.

Given the delay in conducting the LTWHSA Capacity Needs Assessment (August 2023), evaluation for the governance, strategic planning and grant development training will be conducted in Y3Q3 and reported on by end of project.

Activity 3.5 BLI Project Manager and LLSI Project Manager Bill Apusae co-facilitated the LTWHSA Strategic Planning Workshop from 22nd to 24th March 2024. The workshop was hailed a success as this would be the first Strategic Plan for the LTWHSA. Four Strategic Priorities were agreed to, with agreed timelines and responsibilities; a copy of this is attached as Annex 4.9. The draft Strategic Plan will be shared with the LTWHSA Committee for finalizing, after which it is anticipated to be endorsed at the LTWHSA AGM in May 2024. Once adopted, the Strategic Plan will be shared across a wider audience, including Darwin, by EOP.

Activity 4.1 and 4.5 have been completed with significant progress made for Activity 4.2.

Activity 4.1

After many deliberations with the SI Handicraft Association (SIHA), the LTWHSA decided it would not pursue this partnership, as SIHA had not been functioning administratively with the SIHA Chairman mostly away on other national commitments and would not be able to provide technical support to the ERWHS communities. In hindsight, the LTWHSA agreed to include a basic handicraft baseline assessment as part of the Consultant Christina Nasiu's socioeconomic assessment conducted in August 2023. An indication of the level of handicraft production by the ERWHS communities is summarised in section 4.7 of Annex 4.1.

Activity 4.2

The four Women's Savings Clubs have been established in each of the 4 ERWHS villages, a huge success for this reporting period, with all workshops conducted in April, August, and March (Y2). The final ERWHS Women's Savings Club Workshop Report is attached as Annex 4.10. This completes all Phases (I to V) of the Savings Club Sessions, as outlined in the [Women's Savings Club Training Guide](#), a training manual for facilitators developed by LLSI. Consultant Christina Nasiu facilitated the workshops and incorporated materials and resources from the SI Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) to streamline the training, ensuring it was tailored to the local context and easier to comprehend. A critical next and final step in finalising the Savings Clubs is their registration with the MWYCFA and the adoption of a formal agreement document or a Savings Club Policy which outlines the benefit sharing agreements and mechanisms to be put in place. A draft 'constitution' template/policy agreement for the ERWHS Women's Savings Clubs is attached as Annex 4.11.

Activity 4.3

Discussions during the Women's Savings Clubs workshops established that the women had a preference to use the Clubs as a 'savings mechanism' in order to make them more financially self-reliant, and not necessarily to measure handicraft income. Nevertheless, there has been a 100% increase in capacity built amongst the women (from a baseline of 0) because of the financial training provided through the Savings Clubs workshops. Engagement in the EREPA project, as part of the PES scheme will contribute to environmental outcomes.

Activity 4.4

The LTWHSA Capacity Development Plan (Annex 4.7) outlines the priorities of the key areas where training is required. Following the governance training and strategic planning workshop conducted at the end of Y2Q4, the fundraising training is now scheduled for Y3Q2. Two grant applications will be prepared and submitted as part of the practical aspect of the training.

Activity 4.5

LPC George Tauika has done an exceptional job in ensuring the LTWHSA remain a key partner in the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme. A critical component of the EREPA project is to ensure a protected area framework is in place for East Rennell, prior to the PES setup. Mr Tauika has been instrumental in the consultation process with the ERWHS communities, particularly the landowning tribes within the ERWHS. In November 2023, the LPC led a delegation of tribal members from the ERWHS on a fieldtrip funded by the EREPA project, to the [Babatana Rainforest Conservation Forest](#) in the Choiseul Province, the first to participate in the PES scheme in SI. The trip report is attached as Annex 4.12.

Activity 5.1

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECCDM), was successfully convened on 14th August 2023 in Honiara. Attendees included representatives the MECCDM Project Management Unit, MECCDM Climate Change Division, GEF6 EREPA Project Unit, Live & Learn Honiara, NZ MFAT, a local project consultant, and the LTWHSA. Apologies were received from the Director of SI Biosecurity Division. Key outcomes of the meeting comprised the endorsement of a PSC Terms of Reference (TOR), updates on the Darwin project from BLI and the LTWHSA, and progress updates from stakeholders involved in complementary work at the ERWHS (Live & Learn, NZ MFAT & GEF6 EREPA). Subsequently, a Google Shared Drive has been established to facilitate the sharing of project documents, results, and meeting reports. TOR for the PSC is attached as Annex 4.13.

Activity 5.2

The Communication Plan has been updated and entails the dissemination of rodent control and biosecurity case studies, which is now on track for EOP. An extract of the updated table is attached as Annex 4.14.

Activity 5.3

The biosecurity model is progressing through the development of the Biosecurity Plan with the scope being informed by the stakeholder consultations in March. The draft plan will be reviewed by stakeholders in July, where capacity/training needs for the implementation will also be discussed. Stakeholder training is expected to take place in September and a review of the development process and monitoring of the biosecurity implementation, alongside stakeholder surveys will inform the biosecurity case study to be completed by EOP.

Activity 5.4

The rodent control case study will draw on the establishment of the rodent management areas alongside the results of the control for birds and crops. The evidence of the rodent control effectiveness is now being informed by the monitoring data, and alongside the social and economic results of the actions, these will be collated as an informative lesson learned. Suffice to say, much has been learned in terms of challenges, but also benefits be they intended and unintended. The case study will be disseminated across all BLI networks, by EOP.

3.2 Progress Towards Project Outputs

Output 1

During this reporting period, notable advancements have been achieved, with Indicators 1.1 to 1.3 and 1.6 successfully met, indicating that the project is progressing as planned towards accomplishing Output 1. Some changes are requested for Indicators 1.4 and 1.5, and these will be addressed separately (Change Request Form).

Between March and April 2023, the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) Local Rangers compiled biodiversity baseline data as well as baseline data for coconuts, various root crops (such as taro, sweet potato/kumara, tapioca, and yam), and fruit and nut crops (including cutnut, papaya/pawpaw, pineapple, banana, and pumpkin) across the four treatment and non-treatment areas at the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS). This data, recorded as pre-baiting data, was gathered after a field trip (March 19 – April 4) led by BirdLife International (BLI) Project Lead Steve Cranwell, along with Project Consultant and invasive species expert Dr. Ray Pierce, and USP Masters student Viliame Duavakacagi. During this field trip, hands-on training in monitoring, data collection, and reporting was provided to both the Rangers and the Local Project Coordinator (LPC). The baiting process for the four rodent control plots began in May and concluded by late July. In August 2023, BLI Project Manager Miliana Ravuso conducted a monitoring visit to ensure that a final round of baiting was completed before monitoring activities commenced. Rangers submitted their initial community-based monitoring data on indicator biodiversity species and agricultural crops in August and have adhered to the monitoring protocol schedules since then, providing ongoing data. Video footage capturing at least two nests of indicator bird species has been obtained through trail cameras deployed within the forest plots. Monitoring data is recorded by the Rangers and through excel data sheets to BLI. Project Consultant Dr. Ray Pierce has initiated the review of the biodiversity data while BLI is analysing the (rodent) trapping data to demonstrate the effects/impacts of the baiting program on indicator crops.

The four communities within ERWHS continue in their unwavering support for LTWHSA and the project. The rodent control program and the various phases, from development (identification of bait grid, awareness & communication) to implementation (bait grid laying, baiting, identification of baseline indicators) to the current monitoring phase, is being fully understood by the communities. Approximately 150 individuals across these villages have undergone training, and have necessary skills for rodent control implementation, as well as crop and biodiversity monitoring. These village members are recruited as 'casuals' and support the Rangers in conducting the monitoring across the 1km² treatment and non-treatment areas. A crucial step in sharing methods and results of the community-based rodent control is the integration of the biodiversity and monitoring indicators in the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring Plan into the ERWHS Management Plan, which is currently under review by the EREPA Project. Results from the impacts of the community-based rodent control is on track to be shared to ERWHS communities and key implementing partners by EOP.

Output 2

Development of the biosecurity plan for Renbel Province is underway, the local Biosecurity Consultant/Coordinator to lead this activity has been engaged and a biosecurity workshop has been conducted with stakeholders to inform the biosecurity scope. From the workshop inputs, a draft Biosecurity Plan is being prepared and is expected to go out for stakeholder consultation in July. The planning phase will identify capacity needs (already partially informed through the workshop), with a training program to be conducted with Rennell and Bellona communities in September. Priority awareness materials have been identified (Giant African Land snail and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle) and are being developed for dissemination while other awareness needs will be identified through the biosecurity plan preparation. Although it has taken longer than expected to progress this output, a biosecurity response for the Renbel Province will be operational by EOP.

Output 3

Significant progress has been made over this reporting period, with four of the five Indicators achieved (3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 3.5) and one Indicator (3.3) anticipated to be achieved by Y3Q3.

Following the Capacity Needs Assessment in August 2023 (Annex 4.6), the LTWHSA Capacity Development Plan (Annex 4.7) was developed collaboratively with the LTWHSA Committee and members agreed that the Plan reflect the key individual and institutional capacity needs. One of the main capacity gaps identified was the need to strengthen the governance of the LTWHSA as an institution, so individuals better understood their roles and responsibilities, not only within the Committee but to the people of East Rennell. A governance training preceded the strategic planning workshop in March 2024, and this was led by BLI Project Manager Ms. Miliana Ravuso and co-facilitated by LLSI Project Manager Bill Apusae. As a result of the governance training, the LTWHSA agreed to review its Constitution which has been in place since 2009.

A revised Constitution will see the inclusion of objectives aligned to the current situation and needs of the ERWHS communities, such as education, livelihood, and the empowerment of women. The LTWHSA is in discussions with a consultant and the LLSI for the Constitution Review and it is anticipated that it will be endorsed at the LTWHSA AGM, scheduled for the 29th May to 3rd June.

The Strategic Planning Workshop held from 22nd to 24th March was a success and a key milestone was the development of the LTWHSA Strategic Plan with the specific inclusion of the role of women in the Plan. The four-year Plan outlines four strategic priorities (Annex 4.9) agreed to by the LTWHSA Committee, these include conservation and management of the WHS (SP1); development of sustainable livelihoods for the people of East Rennell (SP2); developing the capacity of the LTWHSA Committee (SP3) and strengthening partnerships and collaboration with key partners (SP4). The Plan is expected to be finalized and shared with the ERWHS communities during the LTWHSA AGM for endorsement.

To ensure skillsets are equally beneficial for all members of the LTWHSA Committee and responsibilities are shared, a second training session focusing on project management and financial administration is scheduled for Y3Q2, specifically tailored for individuals serving in the roles of Treasurer and Secretary within the LTWHSA. By the end of project, 100% of active members of the LTWHSA Committee i.e. those who reside in East Rennell throughout the year, would have completed the agreed training in the Capacity Development Plan.

The LTWHSA Committee submitted a Reporting & Monitoring State of Conservation (SOC) Report in February 2024 to UNESCO, through the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development. The report covers the activities carried out by the LTWHSA, including the Darwin project and provides an update on the current condition of the ERWHS. A copy of the SOC report is submitted as Annex 4.15.

Since the project started, there has been an increased commitment to the implementation of the community-based rodent control program and its monitoring, particularly from the LTWHSA Rangers. The Rangers have been following to the latter the Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 4.8) shared with them, and the respective monitoring protocols (for birds, snails, and crops). Contents of progress and field reports submitted to BLI indicate an improvement in the level of understanding and awareness of financial management and accountability. The LTWHSA has made it clear that it is keen to see the rodent control program continue and with the capacity built around project management, the LTWHSA should be able to manage small-scale projects in the horizon. The development of the 4-year Strategic Plan and the planned review of the Constitution are major achievements of the LTWHSA, in its bid to fulfil its roles as the ERWHS management authority.

Output 4

Preliminary findings from the ERWHS Household Income & Wellbeing Survey in August 2023 (Annex 4.1) and subsequent discussions between the ERWHS women and Consultant Ms. Christina Nasiu, indicate that there was a preference to utilize the Savings Clubs to achieve financial empowerment and self-reliance through savings, with less emphasis on measuring income. A key outcome of this assessment was the understanding of the word 'wellbeing' within the communities had little to do with income, either from handicraft or other sources. With no progress made in advancing discussions with the Solomon Islands Handicraft Association (SIHA) due to the unavailability of the SIHA Chairman throughout most of 2023, the LPC recommended that the LTWHSA cease engagement with SIHA, and instead focus on empowering the overall wellbeing of the women of East Rennell. Discussions ensued with BLI project team, and this

warranted a review of Indicators. However, this change had to be agreed foremost by all members of the LTWHSA Committee before submissions could be made to Darwin Initiative. The Pacific Games in November caused disruptions to project schedules as there was an increased movement between Rennell and Honiara. The LTWHSA Committee finally met in March 2024 for the Strategic Planning Workshop and this change in Indicators for the women of ERWHS was endorsed with much support. In March 2024, Ms. Nasiu conducted the last of the Savings Club Workshop for all 4 villages with a total of 94 women altogether agreeing to be members of their respective village Savings Club, surpassing the target of 10 women from each village. Alongside measuring savings for the women, the emphasis was on financial management and empowering women to make informed decisions and have a voice within the community.

The LTWHSA will assist with the formal registration of the Women's Savings Club under the SI Ministry of Women, Youth, Children, and Family Affairs (MWYCFA). Once registered and with the Savings Club Constitution/Policy in place (Annex 4.11), the women of East Rennell will receive support for livelihood development, including access to markets for handicraft.

The LTWHSA remains a crucial partner in the IUCN-led EREPA project. EREPA National Coordinator has indicated that the LTWHSA Local Rangers trained under the Darwin project will be recruited as part of the monitoring team for the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) project scheme. A critical aspect of the EREPA initiative is to establish a protected area framework for East Rennell before implementing the PES program. LPC George Tauika has played a key role in facilitating consultations with the ERWHS communities, especially the landowning tribes within the area. In November 2023, Mr. Tauika led a delegation of tribal members from ERWHS on a field trip funded by the EREPA project to the Babatana Rainforest Conservation Forest in Choiseul Province. The trip was highly successful, with 80% of tribal members consenting to the designation of a protected area (Trip Report Annex 4.12). As part of this initiative, an East Rennell Management Committee has been established specifically to manage the East Rennell Protected Area (PA) once it is established under the respective SI PA framework. The East Rennell Management Committee is a subset of the LTWHSA which is a legal body representing East Rennell to work with National Government, Provincial Government, UNESCO, and NGO Partners.

A change request for amending Indicators 4.2 and 4.3 is being submitted separately to this report. Both have been partially achieved and all actions are on track to achieve project output, by EOP.

Output 5

The BLI Communications Plan has been updated. Information and knowledge sharing at the national level has been strengthened and well on track. BLI has forged strong working ties with Live & Learn SI (LLSI) as well as the SIG MECCDM Team, encompassing the Climate Change Division and the EREPA Project Team. Regular updates and discussions via email have been maintained to facilitate continuous dialogue. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) met on August 14th, 2023, with representatives from MECCDM Project Management Unit, MECCDM Climate Change Division, MECCDM GEF6 EREPA Project Unit, Live & Learn Honiara, NZ MFAT, local project consultant and the LTWHSA. BLI Project Manager, Ms. Miliiana Ravuso and EREPA National Coordinator Ms. Cathy Unga have met on several occasions since then, sharing workplans and timeframes for implementation, this ensures that project activities (and dates) are complementary. Learnings from the rodent control program at the ERWHS, particularly on measuring biodiversity and crop indicators will be used by the LTWHSA Rangers when they participate in land use mapping exercises to be facilitated by the EREPA project by mid-2024. The LTWHSA has prepared a SOC/Condition Report for UNESCO in Feb 2024 (Annex 4.15) detailing the status of the ERWHS, and the management actions taken to address invasive alien species, an indication of the progress to remove the ERWHS from the 'In-Danger' List. The report, alongside learnings from the rodent control program implementation will be shared with the Project Steering Committee during its next meeting.

The setup of the community-based rodent control program and the involvement of men, women and youths have been shared across key national and regional forums. BLI staff Ms. Miliiana Ravuso, Ms. Marcela Bellettini and Steve Cranwell participated at the Kiwa Initiative GEDSI Workshop in Fiji, on 18th May 2023. All members of the Darwin project team at BLI participated at the BLI-led Kiwa Initiative INSPIRE Project during its Inception Workshop in Fiji from 16th to 20th October 2023. Lessons from the ERWHS rodent control program, its implementation,

monitoring, and engagement of the LTWHSA Rangers and communities were shared with BLI Partner staff from French Polynesia, Samoa, Palau and Fiji. BLI Project Manager Ms. Miliana Ravuso and Conservation Officer Ms. Melania Bulimaitoga participated at the SPREP PRISMMS Meeting from 13th to 17th November 2023, where more than 40 invasive species specialists from across the region were in attendance.

The Renbel Biosecurity Planning workshop has set a good foundation for the development of the first Renbel Biosecurity Plan. The MALB is fully supportive and will ensure its alignment to national policies, including the SI Biosecurity Act. As the ERWHS rodent control program enters its last year of monitoring, and with the Renbel biosecurity guidelines being launched, the development of the ERWHS Case Study, showcasing project outcomes, has commenced. The Case Study will include learnings and impacts of the rodent control program. It is on track to be achieved by EOP.

3.3 Progress Towards the Project Outcome

The slow start-up to the project in the initial year of the project resulted in all baseline assessments being carried out at throughout Y2. Nevertheless, all operational plans for the Rodent Control Program are now in place and being implemented by the 4 LTWHSA Rangers. These include the Rodent Control Implementation Plan (shared in AR1 Annex 4.7), the ERWHS Forest Bird Monitoring & Snail Search Protocols (shared in AR1 Annex 4.8), the ERWHS Crop Monitoring Protocol (shared in AR1 Annex 4.9) and the Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 4.8). With monitoring beginning in August, reports on damage to indicator crops have been collated and preliminary findings indicate that crop damage has decreased in the treatment areas, however there is an increased rat presence in the non -treatment areas. Results from the bird monitoring reports have been positive with trail cameras showing footage of new nests of the endemic Ghoghoviu (Rennell Shrikebill). The Rangers have been consistent with their monitoring; however, the challenge has been in the transmission of these data to BLI. Due to the unreliable internet and power supply, entering data onto the excel formats in the project laptop and sending it via email to BLI is challenging for the LPC. Consequently, much of this data is captured using a mobile camera (in JPG format) and then transmitted to BLI Project Manager, Ms. Miliana Ravuso, through social media platforms, thus making data analysis difficult. Plans are now underway for BLI support staff to enter all monitoring data from August 2023, making it possible to make a detailed analysis on the impacts of the rodent control to indicator birds and crops. In addition, BLI has engaged the services of a local (SI) Information Technology specialist, to assist with the setup of these monitoring forms using the Kobo Toolbox. Project Lead Steve Cranwell has introduced this setup to the Rangers, during a recent monitoring trip in March 2024 and the Rangers are keen on using this system to record/upload data. Significant progress has been made with the development of biosecurity planning for the Renbel Province. Outcomes from the Biosecurity Planning Workshop held in Honiara on March 19th & 20th have provided a framework for the setup of biosecurity internal controls for the Renbel Province (using national guidelines), and the mitigation and response measures needed. The Biosecurity Consultant Mr Patteson Akiu is coordinating with biosecurity stakeholders in Honiara and on Rennell to hold a second workshop for Renbel communities and biosecurity stakeholders.

The establishment of the four Women's Savings Club in each of the ERWHS villages has been embraced as a momentous step in advancing the independence and wellbeing of women in the communities. Registration with the MWYCFA and the adoption of equitable sharing benefits through the Constitution will enable access to technical and financial support (from MWYCFA) for livelihood development, including handicraft.

Significant progress has been made in enhancing the capacity of the LTWHSA Committee. The LTWHSA AGM to take place in late May will be an important one for the LTWHSA. Two key documents will be put forward for endorsement, a revised LTWHSA Constitution (adopted 2009) and a LTWHSA Strategic Plan. Assuming all will proceed as planned, by the end of the project, the LTWHSA will have a new Constitution and a 4-year Strategic Plan in operation, both of which will reinforce their position as the governing body for the ERWHS.

The project team is adamant that results of the project will be collated and disseminated using the identified communication mediums, and the project will achieve its intended outcome by EOP.

3.4 Monitoring of Assumptions

Outcome Assumption 1 In assessing the impact of rat control on crop yields, the effect of weather conditions is accounted for by recording these and other agricultural production variables (such as use of fertilisers) in the rat control study.

Comment Assumption is valid for measuring bait uptake and therefore assessing impact of rat control. The monitoring forms capture information/data on bait conditions, i.e. mouldy, crumbly or wet and in the relative percentages, this gives an indication of the weather conditions during monitoring.

Outcome Assumption 2 Drawing on the Pacific experience, combination of size of treatment area, spacing of bait stations and monthly bait replenishment can be expected to sustain a suppressed rat population at low/potentially non-detectable levels, with impact from rats immigrating into the area, expected to be contained within a 50-100m buffer.

Comment Assumption holds true, this is the standard accepted method of rodent control treatment to be able to suppress rat population.

Outcome Assumption 3 Reduction in damage to crops will result in higher yields which will translate into either higher cash income from sales of 'surplus' and/or reduction in proportion of household expenditure on non-home-grown food (dependent on household choice) and potentially an increase in discretionary time owing to the greater crop return on time invested in cultivation – contributing to sense of wellbeing. Community assessment of the value of these benefits from rat control, supports investment in sustained control in critical areas.

Comment Assumption has changed. According to the Household Socioeconomic & Wellbeing Survey, higher crop yields doesn't necessarily translate into higher cash income as the *wantok* system of 'share and care' is still very much in place and widespread across the ERWHS communities. The value of the rat control benefits is appreciated by the communities; however, their governance structure needs to be strengthened and the communities need to be empowered (individually and institutionally). This is being done through the Women's Savings Clubs and the LTWHSA Strategic Plan.

Outcome Assumption 4 Each plot (treatment & control) will hold virgin and regenerating forest and subsistence gardens, enabling assessment of rat control impact on biodiversity and livelihood interests, and comparative analysis of yields and bird breeding over 2-year period. These outcome indicators will provide an overall measure of rat control effectiveness, with concurrent measurement of rat activity (tracking, chew) helping to inform future management through correlation of rat activity and outcomes.

Comment Assumption holds true, but timeframe is too short to be able to provide a comparative analysis.

Outcome Assumption 5 National and regional air travel resumes unrestricted from latest Nov-2022, and quarantine entry conditions to the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Australia, do not exceed 7 days for each country from that time. While COVID situation remains uncertain, these assumptions are based on guidance/advice received from relevant in-country authorities and partners.

Comment Assumption was true, and can be closed, as quarantine requirements has ceased in the SI.

Output 1 Assumption 1 LTWHSA continues to maintain the support of the four ERWHS communities for implementation of the rodent control over project timeframe. LTWHSA committee members, including women and youth representatives, are drawn from the villages, whose members have requested support to address rat impacts.

Comment Assumption still holds true and will be valid until EOP.

Output 1 Assumption 2 Shipping and transportation networks to Rennell remain operational, enabling access to materials and supplies, in line with project implementation timetable.

Comment Assumption was tested and proved incorrect. Shipping and transportation delays in Y1 of project caused the delay in delivery of bait, hence affecting baiting. Assumption revised to Irregular shipping and transportation networks to Rennell causing delay in delivery of equipment.

Output 1 Assumption 3 The training, and ongoing technical assistance, to Rangers is sufficient for the collection of monitoring data to the standards required and accessible for analysis. The training will be led by BirdLife and Eco-Oceania, both with considerable experience of building capacity in IAS control across Pacific communities.

Comment Assumption holds true and valid until EOP.

Output 1 Assumption 4 Two to five nests of each indicator bird species can be monitored within each research plot to assess rat impacts. The plots will be selected and agreed with villagers, based on mix of habitat suitable for indicator species.

Comment Assumption holds true and valid until EOP. These are being monitored by trail cameras within the treatment areas and LTWWSA Rangers are sending in footage of these nests

Output 1 Assumption 5 That a suitable and interested Master's Student can be selected in line with the project implementation timetable and demonstrates robust research skills in carrying out the fieldwork and data analysis. Project partners, SINU and USP are confident of the attractiveness of the opportunity and availability of candidates, and, alongside BirdLife and Eco-Oceania, will provide regular support/guidance to ensure the validity of research results.

Comment Assumption held true at the beginning of the project and a suitable candidate was recruited. However, the delay in conforming to timelines and finalizing research methodology has resulted in the review of this Activity (reflected in a Change Request to Darwin).

Output 2 Assumption 1 SI Government continue to support the project and the integration of biosecurity measures needed to protect biodiversity and quality of life (from IAS) on Rennell and Bellona Islands and in scaling up the model developed and associated lessons to other Provinces in the SI.

Comment Assumption holds true and valid until EOP.

Output 2 Assumption 2 Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI), the mandated government authority for IAS management, has expressed strong support for the project and welcomed its contribution, alongside BirdLife expertise, in drawing up the NISSAP.

Comment The SI MALB, Biosecurity Division has been supportive of this process and the development of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan has commenced.

Output 2 Assumption 3 Rennell commercial sector (logging, mining, and shipping companies) remain supportive of engaging in biosecurity for the island and implement the procedures developed and agreed with them.

Comment Assumption valid and will remain. Biosecurity Consultant is engaging with key biosecurity stakeholders for Rennell, and discussions remain positive.

Output 2 Assumption 4 Domestic shipping is state run, with biosecurity responsibilities mandated by the BSI, providing confidence in compliance. Earlier conversations with the principal logging enterprise at the time of the IAS survey, indicated that they were supportive at that time, but more generally and tangibly, SIG/BSI's jurisdiction over the biosecurity measures will support monitoring and compliance.

Comment Assumption valid & will remain. The incorporation of biosecurity measures and protocols for Rennell into the Renbel Provincial Ordinance (*Draf*) will ensure legality and provide a framework for ensuring compliance.

Output 3 Assumption 1 The institutional and individual knowledge and capacity built by the project will be sustained and continue to be utilised in support of ERWHS management. People on the LTWWSA are from the local communities and are well placed to cascade the knowledge gained from the project, reinforced by the rat control, biosecurity, governance, and other reference materials developed.

Comment Assumption valid and remains until EOP.

Output 3 Assumption 2 Monitoring and condition reporting in line with plan developed under the project, will be sustained beyond the EOP. The SI Government make an annual financial contribution to the ERWHS in accordance with the strategic plan. Condition monitoring and

reporting is one of these priorities and the capacity to sustain this is further strengthened by the development of a PES scheme for ERWHS (L&L project) – providing a direct link between community income and monitoring.

Comment Assumption on monitoring and condition reporting remains valid, and the capacity to sustain it being further strengthened through the PES scheme is true, so as the direct linkage between income and monitoring. LTWHSA has been instrumental in ensuring this agreement (for the PES scheme) and communities have already agreed to continue with the rodent control program. The assumption on the SIG making an annual financial contribution is incorrect and can be removed. Financial support will be sought through grant development, as capacity will have been built within the LTWHSA, and the investment from the PES scheme.

Output 4 Assumption 1 LTWHSA and ERWHS communities value the benefits from the rodent control and IAS management program sufficiently to sustain rat control & biosecurity. The need for the rat control has been identified, and support requested, by these communities. Capacity building and support for short-term fundraising to sustain the controls (alongside any community investment agreed – entirely at their discretion - from increased handicraft and crop sales) pending availability of PES finance, will help mitigate the risk to sustainability. Annual cost of bait to sustain rat control over 400ha is c.11,000GBP. (Use of crop and handicraft income is entirely the community's decision and it is not a project expectation that it will all be directed towards ongoing rat control, however, for context, the estimated increase in handicraft income at community level based on current average earnings & growth target is 13,000 GBP)

Comment Assumption remains valid and remains until EOP. LTWHSA and the ERWHS communities are keen to continue with the rodent control program and with their governance structures strengthened and capacity built, short-term grant proposals will continue to be submitted with in-country support of UNESCO and MECDM. In addition, the LTWHSA Strategic Plan outlines IAS management as one of the priority actions, this alongside the overall ERWHS management will be financially supported by the PES investment scheme.

Output 4 Assumption 2 Income projection from handicraft sales growth is based on reputation and distinctiveness of RenBel handicrafts and access via SIHA to markets/trading in Honiara, alongside Renbel markets. SIHA survey estimated that c.90% of handicraft sales are domestic (not tourism-dependent). Capacity built under the project will position the communities to capitalise, longer-term, on plans for a new market near the Tingoa airstrip on Rennell and SI's hosting of South Pacific Games in 2023.

Comment Assumption is incorrect and can be closed. A key outcome from the Women's Savings Club Workshop was the desire to have the Savings Clubs to financially empower them and enhance their self-reliance. Assumption is the capacity built amongst the ERWHS women will enhance self-reliance and independence; and opportunities provided by the Savings Clubs will be capitalised for long-term livelihood development.

Output 5 Assumption 1 Biosecurity SI prioritise replication of the Renbel Biosecurity Model in other provinces.

Comment Assumption valid and remains until EOP.

Output 5 Assumption 2 The NISSAP is completed and recognises biosecurity priorities for RenBel and nationally.

Comment Assumption valid and remains until EOP.

Output 5 Assumption 3 Financing is in place for developing a NISSAP (GEF) and the process has commenced. Government agencies also understand the threats posed by IAS to biodiversity, livelihoods and well-being and BirdLife has been invited to assist the planning process (and share the results from this project).

Comment Assumption valid and remains until EOP.

Output 5 Assumption 4 Trial provides results and positive impact that can be replicated/used to inform interventions in subsistence farming communities elsewhere in the SI and wider Pacific.

Comment Assumption valid and remains until EOP.

Output 5 Assumption 5 In the event that results are inconclusive, or no agriculture/ livelihood benefits are recorded, this will still provide a valuable benchmark for rat control to subsistence communities and in being widely shared by the project is available for others to learn from and build on. Moreover, the knowledge gained of Black rat effects on Rennell endemics will inform management priorities (for rats) in protecting the ERWHS biodiversity and signal future research needs.

Comment Assumption valid and remains until EOP.

3.5 Impact: Achievement of Positive Impact on Biodiversity and Poverty Reduction

Strong partnerships forged with the SIG agencies MECDM and the MALB, and with key implementing partners like LLSI, will ensure that outcomes are sustained in-country, and the biological and social sustainability of the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) will be secured. Capacity developed within the LTWHSA and specifically for the women of the ERWHS, will ensure that environmental impacts and social benefits are realised by the people of East Rennell. The implementation of the rodent control program, alongside its monitoring activities and the capacity-building efforts within ERWHS communities, will play a pivotal role in bolstering protected area management planning led by the EREPA project and in laying the groundwork for the long-term development of a carbon financing scheme by Live & Learn SI. LTWHSA Rangers will be recruited as part of the biodiversity monitoring team for the PES scheme. Biodiversity indicators used in the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring Plan will be incorporated into the ERWHS Management Plan which is currently being reviewed by the EREPA project. The establishment (and national registration) of the four ERWHS Savings Clubs represent a significant accomplishment for the women of the ER communities, fostering a greater sense of well-being and self-sufficiency. Collectively, these initiatives are poised to foster positive impacts on ERWHS biodiversity while advancing community development and reducing poverty among the ERWHS population.

4. Project Support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM), serving as the CBD focal point in the Solomon Islands, has been actively engaged in the project over the last year. In November 2023, Mr Trevor Maeda attended a UNESCO Conference and requested a brief update on the Darwin project; this was submitted by BLI Project Manager Miliiana Ravuso. In addition, the LTWHSA Chairman and LPC George Tauika submitted a SOC Report (Annex 4.15) to the UNESCO Desk on 13th February 2024, this is then incorporated into national reporting to both UNESCO HQ & MECDM, with references on how the project is progress towards the aim to remove East Rennell from the WHS In-Danger List.

The development, implementation, management and monitoring of the rodent control program represent an effective community-based conservation initiative aligning with Strategic Goal C, Target 12 of the Solomon Islands National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Post-2020 Target 2. Outcomes from the Renbel Biosecurity Planning Workshop in March 2024 will see the integration of biosecurity priorities in a National Ordinance being developed for the Renbel Province. The LTWHSA in partnership with LLSI will work with the SIG, through the MECDM, to ensure the Ordinance Draft is finalized and endorsed as a National Act in Parliament.

5. Project Support for Multidimensional Poverty Reduction

Comprehensive training sessions have been conducted, equipping 1 Local Project Coordinator, 4 Local Rangers and at least 150 community members of the ERWHS, with the skills to implement rodent control measures and effectively monitor project progress. This has not only enhanced understanding of avian and biodiversity threats but has also taught them various monitoring indicators, enabling them to assess the condition of their WHS and boosting environmental protection. With established monitoring procedures, the communities are better prepared to manage resources and have access to quality crops and land. The recruitment of 4 Local Rangers has bolstered household income for their families, as well as for local casual workers engaged on a rotational basis. Given the limited cash economy within the ERWHS, community members express deep gratitude for the project's anticipated provision of significant

cash flow, which supports regular needs such as school fees, essential purchases for children, fuel for transport. The capacity built for the LTWHSA has strengthened governance structures and has put in place a framework (through the Strategic Plan) to guide them in the medium to long-term. The specific inclusion of the roles of women in the Strategic Plan and the establishment of the four Women’s Savings Club is a milestone for the ERWHS, providing social and economic empowerment for women.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	BLI holds the overall management responsibility for the project, with women constituting 84% of the team. Ms. Miliana Ravuso serves as the Project Manager, offering coordination and management support to Steve Cranwell, who fulfils the role of Project Leader. They receive support from Ms. Melania Bulimaitoga, the Conservation Officer, and Ms. Mere Ledua, the Finance Officer, both based in the Fiji Office. Providing overarching financial reporting support is Ms. Alessandra Cappelli, the Finance Business Partner and Ms. Marcela Bellettini provides communications support.
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	The LTWHSA, a locally based organization in East Rennell is the implementing partner for the project. The LTWHSA Committee is the formal management body that operates the LTWHSA. 34% of the Committee members (4 out of 12) members are women.

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn’t quite meeting the requirements of a ‘sensitive’ approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a ‘sensitive’ approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an ‘empowering’ approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	X

As part of the rodent control plots set up within the four ERWHS forest areas, the LTWHSA Local Rangers have ensured that women in the respective villages were provided equal opportunity to

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

participate in the project. Starting in August 2023, following completion of baiting by the Rangers, women have been trained in bait station monitoring; this includes recording number of bait uptake, condition of bait, number of baits to be replaced and general observations of bait stations in the treatment areas. Out of the 150 individuals trained in the rodent control program, 40% have been women.

There are only two (2) denominations at the ERWHS, the South Sea Evangelical Church (SSEC) which observes Sabbath on Sundays, and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church which observes Sabbath on Saturdays. One of the main considerations BirdLife has had to work with, is the need to manage fieldwork, training and community meetings between the 4 villages on certain days. Hutuna & Tegano are SDA villages while Tevaitahe & Hutuna are with the SSEC. Due to the sometimes-irregular flight movements to Rennell (twice a week in good weather), and the high travel cost on the island, the BLI team schedules trips, so it maximises time and efforts on the ground, both for the communities and the project team (BirdLife & LTWHSA). This often includes conducting fieldwork or meetings in Tevaitahe and Niupani on Saturdays, as the other 2 villages (Hutuna and Tegano) cannot work or attend meetings on Saturdays. This is a mutual understanding and a critical show of respect for the communities' different religious backgrounds, and inclusivity to ensure that all members of the communities are involved in consultations and decision making.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Project Leader and Project Manager have both been in regular communication with the LTWHSA LPC George Tauika, despite ongoing commitments. Regular communication channels such as telephone, Zoom, and email are upheld and in-person meetings and on-site visits are deemed essential for effective project management, particularly for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Over this reporting period, BLI has made 4 fieldtrips to the ERWHS. This approach is crucial to ensure the project stays on course, promptly addressing any discrepancies, and fostering financial transparency and accountability with local project partners. The Project Manager consistently consults the Project Logframe to monitor indicators and means of verification for the respective activities. The Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) maintains comprehensive records of all deliverables outlined in its Project Implementation Timetable/Workplan, with plans to share these with key implementing partners during Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. Monitoring data pertaining to the rodent control program's efficacy, impact on crops and biodiversity, as well as its effects on the socioeconomic status and well-being of the ERWHS communities, will be disseminated by EOP.

8. Lessons Learnt

The primary lesson gleaned from the project thus far, is the importance of consistently reviewing the activity schedule and making prudent adjustments based on on-the-ground circumstances, in collaboration with the LTWHSA. BLI has had to revise the LTWHSA workplan from an annual one to a 3-monthly workplan, in order to ensure activities are completed well. This plan is regularly reviewed every two weeks by the LPC, Rangers, and BLI, taking into account associated risks. Activities are meticulously planned well in advance to allow for logistical arrangements, which is always a challenge for East Rennell (i.e. lack of transport, rainy weather resulting in worsened road conditions).

Although the project was specifically intended to demonstrate increased income sources, primarily from handicrafts and crop yields, the socio-economic assessment and community consultations revealed that money or income was not an accurate reflection of well-being. This has resulted in the need to revise Indicators 4.2 and 4.2.

The MSc research has encountered several obstacles, particularly in devising a study design that aligns with the student's preferences, while addressing the objective of quantifying the impact of rodent management on biodiversity or agricultural outcomes. A proposal has been drafted to examine the response of geckos and skinks to rodent control; however, due to the time invested in this process, BLI is in the process of reviewing this to determine feasibility within the project timeframe. Indicator 5.2 will be revised to this effect.

Amendments to these project indicators are being addressed separately in a Change Request Form.

9. Actions Taken in Response to Previous Reviews (if applicable)

The Annual Report (1) Review was shared with the LPC George Tauika and response to comments have been developed collaboratively with the LTWHSA. The following two Comments are being address in this Annual Report:

Comment 1 The project has made progress towards its scheduled Output indicators, although there has been some delay to activities planned in the first year; however, the logframe does not comment on any progress made with activities related to Outputs 2 to 5. Please ensure this is included in the next AR.

Response Significant progress has been made with activities related to Outputs 2 to 5, these have been detailed in the Logframe section of this report.

Comment 2 If the reviewer understands the survey protocols correctly, for birds in general, recording is undertaken for five-minute intervals at specific points, whereas for selected endemic species, recording is undertaken along the entire transects. The reviewer wonders if 5 mins is adequate time and whether the project considered recording birds in general along the entire transect?

Response BLI did assess if recording all birds would be preferable along the entire length of transects. However, the number of species, call variability, detectability, independence of detections, and difficult terrain to traverse meant detections were highly variable (skewed to the 'most detectable' species), and identification would be less certain/reliable (than point counts). 'Transect counts' are considered useful for vulnerable endemic birds with a lower number to concentrate on as priority species for rat/suppression impacts, and a means for identifying instances of nest occurrence (and the opportunity to deploy cameras) as well as increasing our overall bird sampling rate, which can be analysed independently of point counts. BLI has optimised the number of point counts within each treatment area, so they are independent of one another, and sampling effort has been increased to four times annually for all treatment and non-treatment areas.

10. Risk Management

The project has updated its Risk Register (31/03/24) and is submitted with this Annual Report.

11. Sustainability and Legacy

BLI has fostered strong partnerships and relationships with all agencies operating within the ERWHS, notably the SIG MECDM and the MALB. This effort has elevated the profile of invasive species (IAS) management, particularly in rodent control and biosecurity for Rennell Island. The project is now well recognized even by communities in West Rennell, this is evident when the BLI and LTWHSA team are in Tigoa for a few days (West Rennell, where the airstrip is located). Through multiple engagements with the Director of Biosecurity, BLI has facilitated the establishment of a Renbel Biosecurity Coordinator/Officer position within the Biosecurity Division, ensuring a continuous biosecurity presence in the Renbel Province. There is an active MALB Extension Officer based at the Renbel Provincial Office in Tigoa, who will support biosecurity efforts for West Rennell. Development of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan has now commenced, and protocols will be incorporated into a Provincial Ordinance for the Renbel Province. The increased capacity within the LTWHSA as a result of this project has been tremendous. A more rigid governance structure for the LTWHSA, and basic project management, financial administration skills for the LTWHSA Committee is now in place, and expected to be utilized, even after end of project. At the end of the project, the LTWHSA will a revised Constitution and a 4-year Strategic Plan. These initiatives will strengthen their authority as the governing body for the ERWHS. BLI has forged a strong partnership with Live and Learn SI (LLSI). With the LTWHSA involvement in the EREPA project and PES scheme (led by LLSI), it is promising to note that this collaboration will lead to sustainable benefits for the ERWHS communities in the long run. Lessons and challenges experiences so far in this project has been shared across BLI Partner networks through aforementioned forums and workshops. Results from the rodent control program, including data and analysis will be documented as part of the rodent control case study.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative logo has been used on Communication Records Template for when BLI has meetings with stakeholders; on the programs for workshops (Project Inception Workshop, Biosecurity Planning Workshop), LTWHSA training (Strategic Planning) and meetings (Project Steering Committee and LTWHSA Rangers). The project has been acknowledged as a unique initiative with well-defined biodiversity outcomes for the ERWHS. Other complementary projects being executed at the ERWHS have explicit objectives related to climate adaptation, protected area planning, and sustainable financing.

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 0% Planned: 100%
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	No.
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.	No.
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.	N/A.
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.	The use of rodenticide bait was recognized to present potential human health hazards and posed a general risk to ongoing project support due to the potential harm to cats and dogs. To address this concern, BLI has been transparent from the outset about these risks and has identified specific measures to prevent adverse effects. The initial step was for Rangers and communities to collaborate in clearly identifying and agreeing upon the treatment sites/plots, taking into account these risks. Once this was accomplished, the marking of treatment sites/plots commenced. Just before initiating the baiting process, the Coordinator and Rangers engaged in discussions with the communities to apprise them of the risks involved, the locations and timing of the baiting activities, the necessary precautions to be taken, and the commencement date of the baiting process. There have been no issues raised and members of the communities have been participating in the ongoing monitoring.

14. Project Expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				Draft
Consultancy costs				Draft
Overhead Costs				Draft
Travel and subsistence				Draft
Operating Costs				Draft
Capital items (see below)				Draft
Others (see below)				Draft
TOTAL				

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			Kiwa Initiative

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No other comments.

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

Presley Noatangu, a 26-year-old male with a speech disorder, from Hutuna village encountered challenges in participating in typical village duties and communicating with others. Despite this, he is a dedicated follower of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) faith and is exceptionally proficient with computers and MS applications. Presley expressed interest to be engaged in the project and has since been instrumental in producing bait grid maps for the control plots used by the LTWHSA Rangers. Although the LTWHSA has no standalone Gender Equality, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) policy in place, it continues to encourage and actively promotes the involvement of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals from their communities.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	Darwin AR2_16a	LTHWSA, Hutuna Villager Mr. Presley Noatangu developing a baiting grid map for the Hutuna forest plot at the ERWHS. (Photo: M. Ravuso, BirdLife International)		Yes
Image	Darwin AR2_16b	BLI Project Manager, Miliana Ravuso monitoring the control plots with the LTHWSA Rangers. (Photo: G. Tauika, Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association)		Yes
Image	Darwin AR2_16c	Transportation and road inaccessibility continues to be a challenge for the ERWHS. (Photo: S. Cranwell, BirdLife International)		Yes
Image	Darwin AR2_16d	GPS training for LTHWSA Rangers (Photo: S. Cranwell, BirdLife International)		Yes
Image	Darwin AR2_16e	LTHWSA (Committee) Strategic Planning Workshop. (Photo: M. Ravuso, BirdLife International)		Yes
Image	Darwin AR2_16f	ERWHS women actively engage in the rodent control monitoring. (Photo: G. Tauika, Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association)		Yes

Annex 1: Report of Progress and Achievements against Logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>The biological and social sustainability of East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) is secured and contributes to fulfilment of Solomon Islands' CBD commitments, and achievement of National Development Strategy objectives.</p>	<p>The implementation of the rodent control program, along with its monitoring activities and capacity-building efforts within the ERWHS communities, will strengthen protected area management planning. It will lay the foundation for the long-term development of a carbon financing scheme, providing social benefits for the ERWHS communities. Biodiversity indicators utilized in the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring Plan will be integrated into the ERWHS Management Plan, ensuring the biological properties of the ERWHS is sustained and the condition of the ERWHS is monitored in the long-term. The establishment of the four ERWHS Savings Clubs mark a significant achievement for the women of the ER communities, fostering a heightened sense of well-being and self-sufficiency. These collective efforts are poised to yield positive impacts on ERWHS biodiversity, while simultaneously promoting community development and alleviating poverty among the ERWHS population.</p>	
<p>Outcome Evidence base and enabling conditions for sustained IAS/rodent control in 4 ERWHS communities and Province-wide biosecurity established, contributing to food security, livelihood resilience, endemic biodiversity protection and national/regional IAS responses.</p>		
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.1</p> <p>Damage to 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) by black rats quantified from Y2 and, by EOP, showing a 70% decrease, compared to baselines set at project inception, in 4 rat-controlled demonstration areas, compared to 4 areas with no rat control, contributing to food and/or livelihood security and improved wellbeing.</p>	<p>Crop monitoring began in August and preliminary findings indicate that damage to indicator crops has decreased in the treatment areas, however there is an increased rat presence during harvesting season. The data is recorded on monitoring templates, which are meant to be transferred to excel formats on the project laptop. However, a significant portion of the data received by BLI are photo images of the data. This makes it difficult to analyse the data and provide a quantifiable difference.</p>	<p>Monitoring data from August 2023 is being inputted into the intended excel format, enabling detailed analysis on the effects of rodent control on indicator crops (and birds) across all four plots to be done. A comparative analysis will be available by Y3Q3.</p>
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.2</p> <p>Impacts of black rats on 7 ERWHS indicator species (Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove and endemic snails) quantified to inform a revised ERWHS Management Plan and environmental monitoring program by Y3Q3</p>	<p>The outcomes from the bird monitoring reports have been promising, as trail cameras have captured footage of newly discovered nests of the endemic Ghoghoviu (Rennell Shrikebill). Data recorded from the 5-min point counts within the treatment areas shows that the indicator bird species still exist in good numbers. Birds and biodiversity indicators identified in the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring Plan will be incorporated into the ERWHS Management Plan.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

<p>Outcome Indicator 0.3</p> <p>Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan and IAS control protocols developed with local and national stakeholders by end of Y2 and 15 Renbel communities (c.3000 people, aged 15+) have capacity to implement it by EOP.</p>	<p>A framework for developing biosecurity internal controls for the Renbel Province, in accordance with national guidelines has been agreed to by national biosecurity stakeholders, at a 2-day workshop in March. This will inform the Renbel Biosecurity Plan, which is currently being drafted.</p>	<p>Draft Renbel Biosecurity Plan will undergo stakeholder consultation in July.</p> <p>Identified capacity needs will be addressed at a biosecurity training in September, for Rennell & Bellona communities.</p>
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.4</p> <p>By EOP, National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) for the Solomon Islands is in place, and Project Case Study shared through established Pacific-wide Invasives networks.</p>		<p>On track for EOP.</p>
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.5</p> <p>From Y2Q1, and annually thereafter, the LTWHSA is undertaking monitoring and reporting on ERWHS environmental indicators and site condition in accordance with the ERWHS Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan, informing participatory development, implementation and fundraising for updated LTWHSA Strategic Plan by mid-Y3.</p>	<p>LTWHSA Rangers have started monitoring and reporting since August 2023, using environmental indicators stated in the ERWHS Forest Bird Monitoring & Snail Search Protocols and ERWHS Environmental Monitoring Plan. LTWHSA submitted its first site condition (SOC) report to UNESCO/MECDM. Evidence in Section 3.3 and Annexes 3 and 15.</p>	<p>LTWHSA Fundraising Training schedule for Y3Q2.</p> <p>LTWHSA Strategic Plan will be made available at EOP.</p>
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.6</p> <p>Four ERWHS Women's Savings Clubs established & members registered with the Solomon Islands Handicraft Association (SIHA) by end of Y2, with increased monthly income from handicraft sales of minimum 25% recorded at village level and saving and equitable benefit sharing structures established in coordination with LTWHSA by EOP, as a contribution to sustaining the ERWHS (to be decided by Club members</p>	<p>Four ERWHS Women's Savings Clubs successfully established and will be registered with the MWYCFA. Draft constitution/policy to ensure equitable benefit sharing through the Constitution will facilitate access to technical and financial assistance (from MWYCFA) for livelihood enhancement, including handicrafts. Evidence in Section 3.2 and 3.3 and Annexes 10 and 11.</p>	<p>Draft constitution for the Women's Savings Clubs will be finalized, alongside registration, by Y3Q2.</p>
<p>Output 1 Impact on agricultural yields and at-risk endemic biodiversity of a model for community-based rodent control in 4 ERWHS villages quantified, and community-level value of control understood.</p>		
<p>Output Indicator 1.1</p> <p>Community-based rodent control programme, including 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) and 7 indicator species (snails, Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove) for IAS impact assessment study, developed with the participation and agreement of the four ERWHS villages, by Y1Q2.</p>	<p>Local Rangers compiled biodiversity baseline data as well as baseline data for coconuts, various root crops (such as taro, sweet potato/kumara, tapioca, and yam), and fruit and nut crops (including cutnut, papaya/pawpaw, pineapple, banana, and pumpkin) across the four treatment and non-treatment areas at the ERWHS. This was following the community inception workshop and training for the Rodent Control Implementation Plan. Evidence provided in Section 3.2.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p>Output indicator 1.2</p> <p>One 1km² rat treatment and an associated non-treatment ('control') plot, established at each of the four ERWHS villages with biodiversity baselines collated, and baselines for crop yields, socio-economic and wellbeing indicators at participating household level, collated Y1Q4.</p>	<p>Between March and April 2023, BLI Project Lead Steve Cranwell conducted a field trip to provide training to the local Coordinator and four Rangers in crop and bird monitoring at treatment and control sites. Additionally, assistance was provided in finalizing rat control areas.</p> <p>Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 4.2.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.3</p> <p>Four rangers & minimum 40 ERWHS village members have technical capacity for rodent control implementation and associated crop and biodiversity impact monitoring by end of Y2.</p>	<p>About 150 individuals across these villages have undergone training, and have necessary skills for rodent control implementation, as well as crop and biodiversity monitoring. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 4.3.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.4</p> <p>Results from community-based monitoring of indicator species and agricultural crops informing Master's research analysis from Y1Q4.</p>	<p>BLI is reviewing this Indicator/Activity. Should the Master's research not go ahead, results from the community-based monitoring will inform educational materials derived from the project. Refer to Section 3.1/Activity 1.6).</p>	<p>Any changes will be addressed in a Change Request, to be submitted promptly.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.5</p> <p>Final dissertation/case study documenting the results of the application of the ERWHS rodent control model published by Y3Q4.</p>	<p>Rodent control case study will utilize the selection and establishment of rat management areas, in addition to the outcomes of bird and crop control measures.</p>	<p>Rodent control case study on track to be published by Y3Q4.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 1.6</p> <p>Results shared with ERWHS communities and integrated by LTWWSA into ERWHS Management Plan, with mechanism in place for oversight of ongoing rodent control, by EOP.</p>	<p>Biodiversity indicators and monitoring protocols from the ERWHS Monitoring Plan will be used/incorporated as part of the ERWHS Management Plan, currently under review by EREPA.</p>	<p>Results of rodent control program, with established monitoring protocols for management of ERWHS is on track to be shared by EOP.</p>
<p>Output 2 Rennell Island Biosecurity Plan, identifying all high-risk IAS pathways, completed, and adopted by Solomon Islands Government; and Province-wide awareness and capacity developed to monitor and respond to IAS incursions.</p>		
<p>Output Indicator 2.1.</p> <p>Stakeholders critical to the development and implementation of the Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan identified and engaged by Y1Q4.</p>	<p>Biosecurity stakeholders convened in Honiara on the 19th and 20th March 2024, to discuss current IAS issues on Rennell and agree on guidelines to inform the Renbel Biosecurity Plan.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Output indicator 2.2.</p> <p>Renbel biosecurity plan (incorporating response to existing threats, e.g. Black rat and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, & future IAS incursions) drafted with stakeholder input, supported remotely and</p>	<p>Biosecurity planning workshop undertaken (March 2024) and included representatives from Rennell and SIG representatives.</p>	<p>Renbel Biosecurity Plan should be finalized by Y3Q3.</p>

through 6 community biosecurity planning workshops, by end of Y2Q2.	The Plan is currently being drafted. Evidence in Sections 3.2 & 3.2.	
Output Indicator 2.3 SI Government endorsement of Renbel Biosecurity Plan secured by end of Y2Q2.	SI Government MALB has been a key partner in the biosecurity planning workshop and the development of the Rebel Biosecurity Plan.	Endorsement of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan will be secured by EOP.
Output Indicator 2.4 150 people from 15 Rennell and Bellona communities &, at least, 30 Renbel Provincial officials, biosecurity, environment & other state & commercial mining, logging, maritime & airways sector representatives have the knowledge & capacity to implement the Renbel Biosecurity Plan by end of Y2Q3.	Fifteen (15) people, including SIG officials and representatives from the maritime & airways sector participated in a 2-day biosecurity planning and training workshop.	A biosecurity training is scheduled for September for the Rennell and Bellona communities, and key Renbel stakeholders.
Output 2.5 By EOP, reports of new IAS sightings & response to incursions on Rennell Island have increased, against 2010-2020 baseline and Biosecurity SI records verify no new IAS established on Rennell from Y2Q3 to EOP.		On track for EOP.
Output 3 Increased capacity of Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) to fulfil its role as local ERWHS management authority and inform/access benefits from the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme being developed for East Rennell (under complementary L&L project).		
Output indicator 3.1. Institutional and individual member capacity needs of the LTWHSA identified and Capacity Development Plan/training plan developed collaboratively with LTWHSA and L&L, ensuring gender equity in line with new LTWHSA gender resolution, by Y1Q3.	LTWHSA Capacity Needs Assessment conducted in August 2023, with Capacity Development Plan developed in collaboration with LTWHSA, addressing individual and institutional needs. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 4.6 & 4.7.	Completed.
Output Indicator 3.2 LTWHSA Strategic Plan updated by end of Y2 and under implementation by EOP, in collaboration with project partners L&L and key stakeholders, including concurrent IUCN-led EREPA project seeking ERWHS PA designation.	LTWHSA Strategic Planning Workshop held on 22 nd – 24 th March, in collaboration with LLSI. Evidence in Section 3.1 & 3.2 and Annex 4.9.	Draft Plan to be endorsed at LTWHSA AGM in May. Final endorsed version will be shared by EOP.
Output Indicator 3.3 By Y3Q3, 100% of LTWHSA Committee has completed the training agreed under the Capacity Development Plan (3.1), expected to include governance, project and financial management and fundraising, and has capacity to share training with newly elected committee members.	Eleven out of the 12 members of the LTWHSA Committee have undergone training in governance, project and financial management training.	Project management, financial training and grant writing scheduled for Y3Q2. Target of 100% on track to be achieved by Y3Q3.

<p>Output Indicator 3.4</p> <p>ERWHS environmental monitoring plan developed, four rangers and coordinator trained, and annual monitoring completed by end of Y1, and annually thereafter to EOP.</p>	<p>Local Project Coordinator & LTWHS 4 Rangers are diligently adhering to the Environmental Monitoring Plan (Annex 4.8), along with the corresponding monitoring protocols for birds, snails, and crops.</p>	<p>Monitoring will be carried out monthly, until Y3Q3.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 3.5</p> <p>LTWHS reporting the condition of ERWHS, including progress toward removing the site from the 'in Danger List' to the SI govt (Min Education) representative to UNESCO annually from Y2Q3.</p>	<p>LTWHS Committee forwarded a State of Conservation (SOC) Report, reporting condition of the ERWHS to the UNESCO Desk, based at the SIG Ministry of Education. This report offers an overview of the current state of the ERWHS. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 4.15.</p>	<p>Next annual SOC report will be produced in Y3Q4, since monitoring will continue until Y3Q3.</p>
<p>Output 4</p> <p>Long-term sustainability of rodent control outcomes supported through livelihood development and increased capacity of LTWHS to access and coordinate community-level benefit sharing from PES and external funding sources.</p>		
<p>Output Indicator 4.1</p> <p>10 women/ERWHS village invited to join a Women's Savings Club established with support from L&L in each ERWHS village, and baseline handicraft sales/income at village levels collated, and production targets agreed, by end of Y1.</p>	<p>94 women across the 4 ERWHS villages are now members of their respective Women's Savings Clubs. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and 3.3 and Annex 4.10. Baseline handicraft information was collated as part of the Household, SE, Income & Wellbeing Survey Report (Annex 4.1).</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 4.2</p> <p>Minimum 50 men & women (max 80) from ERWHS villages trained by SIHA in handicraft skills, production & marketing by end of Y1.</p>	<p>No progress has been made to date, with SIHA. BLI has discussed with the LTWHS, who've agreed to amend the Indicator, to one of gender (women) empowerment.</p>	<p>Change request will be submitted to this effect.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 4.3</p> <p>Income from handicraft sales accruing collectively to each village Women's Club (4.1) and to individuals trained increased by minimum 25% (monthly) against baseline by EOP.</p>	<p>Findings from the ERWHS Household Income & Wellbeing Survey and conversations with ERWHS women suggest a preference for utilizing the Savings Clubs to attain financial empowerment and self-reliance through savings, with lesser focus on income measurement (handicraft sales).</p>	<p>Change request will be submitted to this effect.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 4.4</p> <p>By end of Y3, LTWHS has submitted (supported via the project) a minimum of two small-scale funding applications for bait supply to sustain rodent control beyond project end, and until PES income becomes available.</p>		<p>Submission of funding applications will be part of the proposal writing workshop, scheduled for Y3Q2.</p>

<p>Output Indicator 4.5</p> <p>LTWWSA actively engaging in development of PES scheme for East Rennell, from end of Y2 and have the capacity to administer the scheme and coordinate community-level benefit sharing by EOP.</p>	<p>LPC George Tauika has been instrumental in facilitating consultations with the ERWWS communities and engaging the LTWWSA. Level of awareness and understanding for the PES scheme has increased, following a 'look and learn' trip to the Choiseul Province. Evidence provided in Annex 4.12.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Output 5 Knowledge at national level and amongst Pacific Islands' IAS management authorities on mitigation methods to reduce the impact of IAS, specifically Black rats, on livelihoods, expanded, through dissemination of Rennell Island Case Studies to SI Government stakeholders and via regional and global networks.</p>		
<p>Output Indicator 5.1</p> <p>Communications Plan developed Y1Q4 identifying outreach for rat control, biosecurity, and livelihood interests for the project including the dissemination of associated control and biosecurity guidelines and models with an implementation timetable through to EOP.</p>	<p>Communications Plan updated. Evidence provided as Annex 4.14.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 5.2</p> <p>By Y2Q4, Master's research study results presented to SINU and USP students and faculty.</p>	<p>There have been some challenges with the Masters research and BLI is currently reviewing this activity and Indicator. Evidence provided in Section 3.1.</p>	<p>Change request will be submitted to this effect.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 5.3</p> <p>By EOP, learning from ER rat control trials & Renbel Province biosecurity response integrated into SI National policies (NISSAP, NBSAP).</p>		<p>On track for EOP.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 5.4</p> <p>By EOP, case study on impacts/results of community control of introduced rodents on biodiversity and agriculture values at ERWWS presented to SI Biosecurity Division, Environment & Conservation Division, UNESCO Desk.</p>	<p>The case study on rat control will incorporate the identification and establishment of rat management areas, along with findings from bird and crop control efforts. The effectiveness of rat control is now supported by monitoring data, and the social and economic outcomes will be compiled as valuable lessons learned.</p>	<p>The case study is scheduled for completion by the EOP.</p>
<p>Output Indicator 5.5</p> <p>By EOP, Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for Subsistence Farming Communities is being applied at sites in Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, the Cook Islands and Samoa and the project knowledge resources disseminated to (amongst others) SPREP, Pacific Invasive Battlers, Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP), BirdLife Partnership, and USP.</p>		<p>On track for EOP.</p>

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The biological and social sustainability of East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) is secured and contributes to fulfilment of Solomon Islands' CBD commitments, and achievement of National Development Strategy objectives.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Evidence base and enabling conditions for sustained IAS/rodent control in 4 ERWHS communities and Province-wide biosecurity established, contributing to food security, livelihood resilience, endemic biodiversity protection and national/regional IAS responses.</p>	<p>0.1 Damage to 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) by black rats quantified from Y2 and, by EOP, showing a 70% decrease, compared to baselines set at project inception, in 4 rat-controlled demonstration areas, compared to 4 areas with no rat control, contributing to food and/or livelihood security and improved wellbeing.</p> <p>0.2 Impacts of black rats on 7 ERWHS indicator species (Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove and endemic snails) quantified to inform a revised ERWHS Management Plan and environmental monitoring program by Y3Q3.</p> <p>0.3 Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan and IAS control protocols developed with local and national stakeholders by end of Y2 and 15 Renbel communities (c.3000 people, aged 15+) have capacity to implement it by EOP.</p> <p>0.4 By EOP, National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) for the Solomon Islands is in place, and Project Case Study shared through</p>	<p>0.1 Rodent Control Plan (for confirmation of indicators); Agricultural monitoring data and reports (baseline, and quarterly Y2 & Y3); household livelihood impacts (in terms of income and/or subsistence crop benefits) and associated household wellbeing surveys (baseline, mid-term and EOP).</p> <p>0.2 Biological monitoring data against baselines for selected indicator species as identified by biodiversity impact study (Post-graduate/Masters Student-led). IAS impact on biodiversity & management recommendations documented and shared with SI Environment & Conservation Division, for integration into Protected Area (PA) management planning processes, and revised ERWHS Management Plan. Monitoring Plan incorporated into updated ERWHS Management Plan.</p> <p>0.3 SI Biosecurity Planning Workshop Reports (Y2) & Biosecurity Division-endorsed Renbel Biosecurity Plan. Community biosecurity training workshop (x3) reports; use/siting of IAS response guidelines (posters & leaflets) by communities for IAS surveillance & incursion reporting</p>	<p>In assessing the impact of rat control on crop yields, the effect of weather conditions is accounted for by recording these and other agricultural production variables (such as use of fertilisers) in the rat control study.</p> <p>Drawing on Pacific experience, the combination of size of treatment area, spacing of bait stations and monthly bait replenishment can be expected to sustain a suppressed rat population at low/potentially non-detectable levels, with impact from rats immigrating into the area, expected to be contained within a 50-100m buffer.</p> <p>Reduction in damage to crops will result in higher yields which will translate into either higher cash income from sales of 'surplus' and/or reduction in proportion of household expenditure on non-home-grown food (dependent on household choice) and potentially an increase in discretionary time owing to the greater crop return on time invested in cultivation – contributing to sense of wellbeing. Community assessment of the value of these benefits from rat control, supports investment in sustained control in critical areas.</p> <p>Each plot (treatment & control) will hold virgin and regenerating forest and</p>

	<p>established Pacific-wide Invasives networks.</p> <p>0.5 From Y2Q1, and annually thereafter, the LTWWSA is undertaking monitoring and reporting on ERWWS environmental indicators and site condition in accordance with the ERWWS Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan, informing participatory development, implementation and fundraising for updated LTWWSA Strategic Plan by mid-Y3.</p> <p>0.6 Four ERWWS Women's Savings Clubs established & members registered with the Solomon Islands Handicraft Association (SIHA) by end of Y2, with increased monthly income from handicraft sales of minimum 25% recorded at village level and saving and equitable benefit sharing structures established in coordination with LTWWSA by EOP, as a contribution to sustaining the ERWWS (to be decided by Club members).</p>	<p>(from end of Y2); IAS reports to Renbel Provincial Office.</p> <p>0.4 SI NISSAP, available at least as an advanced draft, if not fully published. Documented case studies on impacts of rodents on biodiversity & agriculture in the ERWWS. Documented model of community-supported biosecurity. Meeting reports, presentations of Case Study and model at Pacific Invasives Partnership & other regional IAS networks (see Output 5).</p> <p>0.5 Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans for ERWWS; environmental monitoring and project reports submitted by LTWWSA. LTWWSA Strategic Plan; reports of Plan development workshops; LTWWSA meeting minutes and progress reports; fundraising plan and submitted funding applications.</p> <p>0.6 Women's Club policy documents; reports on income from handicrafts completed for each village Club at project inception (baseline) and annually to EOP.</p>	<p>subsistence gardens, enabling assessment of rat control impact on biodiversity and livelihood interests, and comparative analysis of yields and bird breeding over 2-year period. These outcome indicators will provide an overall measure of rat control effectiveness, with concurrent measurement of rat activity (tracking, chew) helping to inform future management through correlation of rat activity and outcomes.</p> <p>National and regional air travel resumes unrestricted from latest Nov-2022, and quarantine entry conditions to the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Australia, do not exceed 7 days for each country from that time. While COVID situation remains uncertain, these assumptions are based on guidance/advice received from relevant in-country authorities and partners.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Impact on agricultural yields and at-risk endemic biodiversity of a model for community-based rodent control in 4 ERWWS villages quantified, and community-level value of control understood.</p>	<p>1.1 Community-based rodent control programme, including 5 indicator crops (Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts) and 7 indicator species (snails, Rennell Whistler, Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Rennell Parrot, Rennell Fantail, Bronze Ground-Dove) for IAS impact assessment study, developed with the participation and agreement of the four ERWWS villages, by Y1Q2.</p> <p>1.2 One 1km² rat treatment and an associated non-treatment ('control') plot, established at each of the four ERWWS</p>	<p>1.1 Rodent Control Operational and Monitoring Plan; Community Consultation Meeting(s) records/minutes.</p> <p>1.2 Map of treatment and non-treatment sites. Baseline and quarterly reports & monitoring template for crop yield and biodiversity indicators. Household income and wellbeing survey report including baseline.</p> <p>1.3 Training workshop report; Monthly monitoring data received (by BLI) from Y2Q1.</p>	<p>LTWWSA continues to maintain the support of the four ERWWS communities for implementation of the rodent control over project timeframe. LTWWSA committee members, including women and youth representatives, are drawn from the villages, whose members have requested support to address rat impacts.</p> <p>Shipping and transportation networks to Rennell remain operational, enabling access to materials and supplies, in line with project implementation timetable.</p> <p>The training, and ongoing technical assistance, to Rangers is sufficient for the</p>

	<p>villages with biodiversity baselines collated, and baselines for crop yields, socio-economic and wellbeing indicators at participating household level, collated Y1Q4.</p> <p>1.3 Four rangers & minimum 40 ERWHS village members have technical capacity for rodent control implementation and associated crop and biodiversity impact monitoring by end of Y2.</p> <p>1.4 Results from community-based monitoring of indicator species and agricultural crops informing Master's research analysis from Y1Q4.</p> <p>1.5 Final dissertation/case study documenting the results of the application of the ERWHS rodent control model published by Y3Q4.</p> <p>1.6 Results shared with ERWHS communities and integrated by LTWHSA into ERWHS Management Plan, with mechanism in place for oversight of ongoing rodent control, by EOP.</p>	<p>1.4 Quarterly data analysis and 6-monthly reporting, for species & agricultural crop indicators.</p> <p>1.5 Postgraduate dissertation on IAS impacts on biodiversity peer-reviewed & approved.</p>	<p>collection of monitoring data to the standards required and accessible for analysis. The training will be led by BirdLife and Eco-Oceania, both with considerable experience of building capacity in IAS control across Pacific communities.</p> <p>Two to five nests of each indicator bird species can be monitored within each research plot to assess rat impacts. The plots will be selected and agreed with villagers, based on mix of habitat suitable for indicator species.</p> <p>That a suitable and interested Master's Student can be selected in line with the project implementation timetable and demonstrates robust research skills in carrying out the fieldwork and data analysis. Project partners, SINU and USP are confident of the attractiveness of the opportunity and availability of candidates, and, alongside BirdLife and Eco-Oceania, will provide regular support/guidance to ensure the validity of research results.</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Rennell Island Biosecurity Plan, identifying all high-risk IAS pathways, completed, and adopted by Solomon Islands Government; and Province-wide awareness and capacity developed to monitor and respond to IAS incursions.</p>	<p>2.1 Stakeholders critical to the development and implementation of the Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan identified and engaged by Y1Q4.</p> <p>2.2 Renbel biosecurity plan (incorporating response to existing threats, e.g., Black rat and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, & future IAS incursions) drafted with stakeholder input, supported remotely and through 6 community biosecurity planning workshops, by end of Y2Q2.</p> <p>2.3 SI Government endorsement of Renbel Biosecurity Plan secured by end of Y2Q2.</p> <p>2.4 150 people from 15 Rennell and Bellona communities &, at least, 30 Renbel</p>	<p>2.1 Stakeholder Analysis Report/List; Stakeholder contacts established (email group); and document outlining scope of Renbel Biosecurity Plan circulated and agreed.</p> <p>2.2 Reports from biosecurity planning workshops; draft Renbel Biosecurity Plan; documented stakeholder feedback on the, Plan.</p> <p>2.3 Final government-endorsed Renbel Province Biosecurity Plan; formal record of Biosecurity Plan approval by SIG; meeting records.</p> <p>2.4 Biosecurity training materials (IAS identification, surveillance, reporting and response procedures); training</p>	<p>SI Government continue to support the project and the integration of biosecurity measures needed to protect biodiversity and quality of life (from IAS) on Rennell and Bellona Islands and in scaling up the model developed and associated lessons to other Provinces in the SI.</p> <p>Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI), the mandated government authority for IAS management, has expressed strong support for the project and welcomed its contribution, alongside BirdLife expertise, in drawing up the NISSAP.</p> <p>Rennell commercial sector (logging, mining, and shipping companies) remain supportive of engaging in biosecurity for the island and</p>

	<p>Provincial officials, biosecurity, environment & other state & commercial mining, logging, maritime & airways sector representatives have the knowledge & capacity to implement the Renbel Biosecurity Plan by end of Y2Q3.</p> <p>2.5 By EOP, reports of new IAS sightings & response to incursions on Rennell Island have increased, against 2010-2020 baseline and Biosecurity SI records verify no new IAS established on Rennell from Y2Q3 to EOP.</p>	<p>workshop reports & pre-post training surveys; Guidelines shared on managing harmful threats established on Rennell e.g. CRB, and Black rats; Renbel Province biosecurity awareness & communications plan; biosecurity information and awareness materials including entry point biosecurity signs, posters, media articles and transportation service passenger information.</p> <p>2.5 Records of (new) IAS sightings for Renbel reported to LTWWSA, Renbel Provincial office and SI Biosecurity (as relevant). Biosecurity SI records of incursion responses from Y2Q3.</p>	<p>implement the procedures developed and agreed with them.</p> <p>Domestic shipping is state run, with biosecurity responsibilities mandated by the BSI, providing confidence in compliance. Earlier conversations with the principal logging enterprise at the time of the IAS survey, indicated that they were supportive at that time, but more generally and tangibly, SIG/BSI's jurisdiction over the biosecurity measures will support monitoring and compliance.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Increased capacity of Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWWSA) to fulfil its role as local ERWWS management authority and inform/access benefits from the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme being developed for East Rennell (<i>under complementary L&L project</i>).</p>	<p>3.1 Institutional and individual member capacity needs of the LTWWSA identified and Capacity Development Plan/training plan developed collaboratively with LTWWSA and L&L, ensuring gender equity in line with new LTWWSA gender resolution, by Y1Q3.</p> <p>3.2 LTWWSA Strategic Plan updated by end of Y2 and under implementation by EOP, in collaboration with project partners L&L and key stakeholders, including concurrent IUCN-led EREPA project seeking ERWWS PA designation.</p> <p>3.3 By Y3Q3, 100% of LTWWSA Committee has completed the training agreed under the Capacity Development Plan (3.1), expected to include governance, project and financial management and fundraising, and has capacity to share training with newly elected committee members.</p> <p>3.4 ERWWS environmental monitoring plan developed, four rangers and coordinator trained, and annual monitoring</p>	<p>3.1 Capacity Needs Assessment report; Capacity Development Plan; LTWWSA meeting and Plan development workshop reports.</p> <p>3.2 LTWWSA Strategic Plan; Plan development workshop report.</p> <p>3.3 Training workshop reports; Training Evaluation Forms; quarterly project financial & technical progress reports submitted by LTWWSA; funding plan for ERWWS.</p> <p>3.4 ERWWS Monitoring Plan/Protocols (document) and Monitoring Reports submitted by LTWWSA rangers.</p> <p>3.5 LTWWSA condition reports to SIG.</p>	<p>The institutional and individual knowledge and capacity built by the project will be sustained and continue to be utilised in support of ERWWS management. People on the LTWWSA are from the local communities and are well placed to cascade the knowledge gained from the project, reinforced by the rat control, biosecurity, governance, and other reference materials developed.</p> <p>Monitoring and condition reporting in line with plan developed under the project, will be sustained beyond the EOP. The SI Government make an annual financial contribution to the ERWWS in accordance with the strategic plan. Condition monitoring and reporting is one of these priorities and the capacity to sustain this is further strengthened by the development of a PES scheme for ERWWS (L&L project) – providing a direct link between community income and monitoring.</p>

	<p>completed by end of Y1, and annually thereafter to EOP.</p> <p>3.5 LTWHSA reporting the condition of ERWHS, including progress toward removing the site from the 'in Danger List' to the SI govt (Min Education) representative to UNESCO annually from Y2Q3.</p>		
<p>Output 4</p> <p>Long-term sustainability of rodent control outcomes supported through livelihood development and increased capacity of LTWHSA to access and coordinate community-level benefit sharing from PES and external funding sources.</p>	<p>4.1 10 women/ERWHS village invited to join a Women's Savings Club established with support from L&L in each ERWHS village, and baseline handicraft sales/income at village levels collated, and production targets agreed, by end of Y1.</p> <p>4.2 Minimum 50 men & women (max 80) from ERWHS villages trained by SIHA in handicraft skills, production & marketing by end of Y1.</p> <p>4.3 Income from handicraft sales accruing collectively to each village Women's Club (4.1) and to individuals trained increased by minimum 25% (monthly) against baseline by EOP.</p> <p>4.4 By end of Y3, LTWHSA has submitted (supported via the project) a minimum of two small-scale funding applications for bait supply to sustain rodent control beyond project end, and until PES income becomes available.</p> <p>4.5 LTWHSA actively engaging in development of PES scheme for East Rennell, from end of Y2 and have the capacity to administer the scheme and coordinate community-level benefit sharing by EOP.</p>	<p>4.1 Formal agreement documents & policies for the operation of the four Women's Clubs; records of membership; meetings reports documenting agreed production target; baseline income report.</p> <p>4.2 Records of SIHA training materials; reports and evaluations from training workshops led by SIHA.</p> <p>4.3 Survey and record of sales and income (at combined village level) at project outset (baseline), annually and EOP.</p> <p>4.4 Fundraising proposals.</p> <p>4.5 Workshop/work planning reports by L&L SI; reports from PES planning workshops; documented community consultation responses.</p>	<p>LTWHSA and ERWHS communities value the benefits from the rodent control and IAS management program sufficiently to sustain rat control & biosecurity. The need for the rat control has been identified, and support requested, by these communities. Capacity building and support for short-term fundraising to sustain the controls (alongside any community investment agreed – entirely at their discretion - from increased handicraft and crop sales) pending availability of PES finance, will help mitigate the risk to sustainability. Annual cost of bait to sustain rat control over 400ha is c.11,000GBP. (Use of crop and handicraft income is entirely the community's decision and it is not a project expectation that it will all be directed towards ongoing rat control, however, for context, the estimated increase in handicraft income at community level based on current average earnings & growth target is 13,000 GBP). Income projection from handicraft sales growth is based on reputation and distinctiveness of RenBel handicrafts and access via SIHA to markets/trading in Honiara, alongside Renbel markets. SIHA survey estimated that c.90% of handicraft sales are domestic (not tourism-dependent). Capacity built under the project will position the communities to capitalise, longer-term, on plans for a new market near the Tingoa</p>

			airstrip on Rennell and SI's hosting of South Pacific Games in 2023.
<p>Output 5</p> <p>Knowledge at national level and amongst Pacific Islands' IAS management authorities on mitigation methods to reduce the impact of IAS, specifically Black rats, on livelihoods, expanded, through dissemination of Rennell Island Case Studies to SI Government stakeholders and via regional and global networks.</p>	<p>5.1. Communications Plan developed Y1Q4 identifying outreach for rat control, biosecurity, and livelihood interests for the project including the dissemination of associated control and biosecurity guidelines and models with an implementation timetable through to EOP.</p> <p>5.2. By Y2Q4, Master's research study results presented to SINU and USP students and faculty.</p> <p>5.3. By EOP, learning from ER rat control trials & Renbel Province biosecurity response integrated into SI National policies (NISSAP, NBSAP).</p> <p>5.4. By EOP, case study on impacts/results of community control of introduced rodents on biodiversity and agriculture values at ERWHS presented to SI Biosecurity Division, Environment & Conservation Division, UNESCO Desk.</p> <p>5.5. By EOP, Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for Subsistence Farming Communities is being applied at sites in Fiji, French Polynesia, Palau, the Cook Islands and Samoa and the project knowledge resources disseminated to (amongst others) SPREP, Pacific Invasive Battlers, Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP), BirdLife Partnership, and USP.</p>	<p>5.1. Communications Plan; Published case study; communications materials (including printed documents; presentation visuals; video).</p> <p>5.2. Presentation materials; report of lectures; University schedules.</p> <p>5.3. NBSAP Implementation Plan and NISSAP contain Renbel and ERWHS IAS and biodiversity conservation priorities.</p> <p>5.4. Presentation materials; meeting reports; national stakeholder feedback indicating how results will be used.</p> <p>5.5. Steering Committee, meeting, and workshop reports; presentation materials and schedules; documented responses.</p>	<p>Biosecurity SI prioritise replication of the Renbel Biosecurity Model in other provinces.</p> <p>The NISSAP is completed and recognises biosecurity priorities for RenBel and nationally.</p> <p>Financing is in place for developing a NISSAP (GEF) and the process has commenced. Government agencies also understand the threats posed by IAS to biodiversity, livelihoods and well-being and BirdLife has been invited to assist the planning process (and share the results from this project).</p> <p>Trial provides results and positive impact that can be replicated/used to inform interventions in subsistence farming communities elsewhere in the SI and wider Pacific.</p> <p>In the event that results are inconclusive, or no agriculture/ livelihood benefits are recorded, this will still provide a valuable benchmark for rat control to subsistence communities and in being widely shared by the project is available for others to learn from and build on. Moreover, the knowledge gained of Black rat effects on Rennell endemics will inform management priorities (for rats) in protecting the ERWHS biodiversity and signal future research needs.</p>

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1).

- 1.1. Project partner Inception Workshop (virtual July). LTWHSA and partner supported community consultation - present control program, confirm treatment and non-treatment locations, verify monitoring indicators (externally assisted Nov), source socioeconomic info associated with crop production and rat effects ensuring gender & social equity (externally assisted Nov).
- 1.2. Formalise National Project Coordinator appointment (virtual Jul-Aug); Recruit Master's Student (virtual Jul-Aug); 4 LTWHSA Rangers and confirm process for selecting community support ensuring gender & social equity (virtual Aug).
- 1.3. Procurement and delivery of equipment & supplies for rodent control program.
- 1.4. Prepare expert peer-reviewed Rodent Control Operational & Monitoring Plan (bring forward to Q2); Rangers (4), Coordinator (1) and community members (40) trained (training and on-ground op established in Jan-Feb 2023) and technically supported in the implementation control and monitoring at treatment & non-treatment sites and data collated and shared monthly for each of the 4 ERWHS sites.
- 1.5. BirdLife to analyse and report biodiversity and socio-economic results to project stakeholders.
- 1.6. USP Master's student research implemented, field data collected, and results inform agriculture and biodiversity case studies and learning.
- 2.1. Renbel Province biosecurity stakeholders identified and engaged in biosecurity planning process. Agree on plan scope and timelines; draft Renbel Biosecurity Plan developed through stakeholder consultation and finalised & endorsed by SIG.
- 2.2. Biosecurity training workshops held with Rennell & Bellona communities, SIG, commercial mining, logging, maritime and airways sectors.
- 2.3. Biosecurity communications plan (linked to 5.2) developed, and posters, transportation advisory and broadcasting information, IAS identification services & popular communications produced in support of IAS identification, detection & response procedures for ERWHS and Renbel Province.
- 2.4. Biosecurity surveillance, identification, reporting and response procedures actioned by stakeholders (in accordance with Renbel Biosecurity Plan), compliance monitored, and the effectiveness of the biosecurity process evaluated, informing a model for replication.
- 3.1. BL & L&L SI conduct community participatory workshop to assess LTWHSA capacity needs and identify existing training and resource materials that can be adapted.
- 3.2. Develop LTWHSA Capacity Development Plan, targets and outcomes and implement priorities (including project and financial management and grant development).
- 3.3. LTWHA environmental monitoring plan developed, Rangers (4), Coordinator (1), SI Live & Learn personnel trained and collecting monitoring indicators, and reporting results annually to SIG. Finalise Plan with inputs from rat trials.
- 3.4. Evaluate LTWHSA capacity development using 'Kirkpatrick' type evaluation model.
- 3.5. Conduct LTWHSA strategic planning workshop and develop LTWHSA Strategic Plan.
- 4.1. Conduct baseline survey of handicraft production and assess development needs ensuring gender equity.
- 4.2. Establish Women's Savings Clubs, develop benefit sharing agreements, including production targets, and conduct handicraft workshops at the ERWHS.
- 4.3. Analyse & report on handicraft income and contribution to social and environmental outcomes for the ERWHS vs baseline.
- 4.4. LTWHSA submit at least 2 grant applications with BirdLife assistance.
- 4.5. LTWHSA contribute to identifying ERWHS landownership agreement and development of a PES business model.
- 5.1. Establish Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting with project partners and convene 6-monthly meetings to review progress, recommend adjustments and share results.
- 5.2. Communications plan developed for the dissemination of rodent control case studies, biosecurity model and associated knowledge products to national, regional and global audiences.
- 5.3. Scoping, documentation and dissemination of Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study (agriculture and biodiversity) and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for subsistence farming communities.
- 5.4. Results from the ER rat control, research, Renbel biosecurity, capacity building and outcomes for women contribute to national policies (NISSAP, climate adaptation plan and NBSAP) and are shared through Solomon Island forums including SINU (and USP) lectures; Regionally, PILN network, PRISMSS and other information sharing networks including the BirdLife Partnership.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.	Number of Organisations	Organisation Type: Local	0	1		1	1
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Stakeholder Group: Indigenous People	48	100		148	Minimum 40
DI-A06	Number of people with improved access to services or infrastructure for improved well-being.	People	Gender: Women Stakeholder Group: Indigenous Group	0	94		94	10 per village
DI-A07	Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	Government institutions	Govt. Organisation Type: National Agricultural, Environment, Biosecurity	0	3		3	2
DI-B01	Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Languages: English Typology: Environmental Management Plan	0	1		1	1
DI-DO1	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Km ²	World Heritage Site under invasive species management	0	4		4	4

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

These will be compiled as one document (PDF) and emailed separately, as supplementary material with the report.

- Annex 4.1 Household SE, Income & Wellbeing Survey Report
- Annex 4.2 Maps of the four 1km² Treatment Plot at the ERWHS
- Annex 4.3 ERWHS Monitoring Datasheets
- Annex 4.4 Preliminary Bird Count Analysis
- Annex 4.5 Biosecurity Workshop Report
- Annex 4.6 LTWWSA Capacity Needs Assessment Report
- Annex 4.7 LTWWSA Capacity Development Plan
- Annex 4.8 ERWHS Environmental Monitoring Plan
- Annex 4.9 LTWWSA Strategic Priorities
- Annex 4.10 LTWWSA Women’s Savings Club Workshops Report
- Annex 4.11 LTWWSA Women’s Savings Club Constitution (Draft)
- Annex 4.12 LTWWSA ‘Look & Learn’ Choiseul Trip Report
- Annex 4.13 Project Steering Committee TOR
- Annex 4.14 Communications Plan (Updated)
- Annex 4.15 LTWWSA State of Conservation (SOC) Monitoring Report

Checklist for Submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	Yes
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	