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Year 1 End Report

Network of Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas in Solomon Islands (SB001701)

Report to Darwin Initiative



for a living planet

WWF UK

WWF South Pacific Programme

WWF Solomon Islands

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	SB0017.01
Project Title	Network of Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas in Solomon Islands.
Country(ies)	Solomon Islands
UK Contractor	WWF UK
Partner Organisation(s)	WWF South Pacific Programme
Darwin Grant Value	£ 154,246
Start/End dates	July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3)	July 1 2005 – March 31, 2006
Project website	www.wwfpacific.org.fj
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	April 26, 2006

2. Project Background

The project location is in Western Province, Solomon Islands and includes the coastal, reef and mangrove areas of 4 communities on the islands of Ranonga (Pienuna village), Vella Lavella (Karaka village), Kohingo (Boboe village) and Kolombangara (Nusatuva village). The WWF Solomon Islands field office through which the project is coordinated is central to these communities and is located in Gizo, Western Province. WWF SI also maintains a national office in Honiara through which much of its government and donor engagement occurs.

The project aims to support Solomon Islands peoples to maintain marine biodiversity and fisheries productivity within the Bismarck Solomon Seas Ecoregion through appropriate resource management practices such as development of new community managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and sustainable income generating activities. It builds on existing work of WWF SI and others in MPA establishment throughout the Western Province, including the Gizo Marine Conservation Area and Tetepare Island Conservation Area programmes.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

The project goal is "to draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources".

The project purpose is "to support Solomon Islands peoples maintain marine biodiversity and fisheries productivity within the Bismarck Solomon Seas Ecoregion through appropriate

resource management practices such as development of new community managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and sustainable income generating activities."

Output 1. Communities have a greater understanding of the status, conservation and management of their marine resources and are empowered to manage near shore marine resources for subsistence and artisanal uses.

Output 2. Enhanced capacity of communities, partners and WWF SI staff for participating in sustainable management of marine resources in the MPAs and for identifying and establishing appropriate alternative livelihood enterprises.

Output 3. Biological and socio economic data collection and analysis

Output 4. Management plans established and community based monitoring programmes implemented.

Output 5. Identification & establishment of pilot sustainable income generating projects appropriate to target communities.

Output 6. Lessons learned and documented and distributed.

No changes to the outputs or operational plan have been made. See Appendix 1 for progress and achievements against outputs. One request was made to Darwin in late February to use a portion of funds designated for purchase of radio communications (a radio for the WWF Gizo filed office) for computer purchases instead. WWF SI has experienced the breakdown of 3 older computers in the past 6 months and several staff members are currently sharing computers. This has slowed project progress somewhat. This request is still with Darwin secretariat.

4. Progress

This project builds on existing work of WWF SI in establishing MPAs in the Solomon Islands within the Gizo Marine Conservation Area, an area recognized by international experts as having globally significant marine biodiversity. The current Darwin project's efforts to develop 4 additional community-based MPAs will result in a wider network of MPAs in the region and the linking of communities through the Solomon Islands Locally Managed Marine Areas network (SILMMA). WWF SI has previously worked with 2 of the target communities in this area (Karaka and Kekoro) but was unable to continue with this work during the 2000 -2002 ethnic tension due to a general breakdown in law and order and a resultant reduction in available funding. The Darwin project aims to re-establish links with these communities (on their request) and to develop new MPA sites at Nusatuva and Boboe communities.

Annex 1 provides a detailed summary of progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the period and the logical framework. Given the short time frame (9 months) and the delayed start-up due to the long period required for recruitment, a great deal of the activities have been completed on-time as per the schedule. However there have been delays and postponements of 2 activities/outputs:

- 1) Western Province Awareness Workshop has been delayed due to lack of time of government staff and WWF SI needing time to finalize a Resource Management Ordinance to present to Western Province Premier (this last element is separate to the Darwin project but the workshop is a critical opportunity to appeal to the government to endorse this MPA). The workshop has been rescheduled for early May.
- 2) Mangrove surveys have been delayed in the hopes of getting assistance from regional experts in June.

The start up to this project was delayed as funds were only available to WWF SI in July of 2005. Project establishment proceeded relatively slowly. A project manager was identified

quickly (from within existing staff), but it took longer to recruit four field officers who had a good understanding of community dynamics, culture and language. Difficulties were also encountered in finding appropriate field officers who also resided within the vicinity of the project area. Community site selection was done in several phases with several community contacts made through chiefs, elders and church leaders. A marine officer was hired in November 2005.

A WWF SI staff training programme for existing staff and for the 4 new field officers was conducted in September 2005. A training needs analysis identified key areas of focus in introduction to WWF policies and procedures, principles of marine science, community studies (PRA processes), natural resource management and environmental economics. Practical training also included marine survey techniques of Reef Check and Sea Grass Watch. The Darwin marine officer and all four field officers received scuba training (Open Water Diver) in October and November. Field Officers were all trained in Reef Check and Sea Grass methodology and have conducted practical sessions in their respective communities.

Four Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) workshops were conducted in all four project communities (November to March). Socio-economic surveys, land tenure system surveys, social infrastructure surveys were also conducted by field officers during these workshops. PRA workshop reports for each community are currently under preparation with an aim to report back to communities in April and May.

A database for biological data has been established with the help of the GCRMN (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network). Preparation for biological baseline surveys, Reef Check and Sea Grass Watch surveys involved the development of identification cards. Identification criteria have been adopted from the Reef Check, GCRMN and Seagrass Watch methodology.

Beginning in January 2006, 5 radio broadcasts on marine conservation and the Darwin project have been recorded and air-played. The programmes were 15 minutes in length once per week and covered topics ranging from marine protected areas, coral reef health and monitoring, spawning aggregation (SPAG) and general marine conservation awareness (see appended example on SPAG sites). These programmes were very well received and continue to be a highlight with communities throughout the Western Province. WWF SI believes that radio is the best medium for brining information to rural communities whose literacy levels are low. Two marine awareness posters have been developed. These are in simple language and have high visual impact. A PRA tool-kit has also been developed and is in the final editing stages. This will be used for training of community facilitators and also of provincial government staff in a workshop in May.

The WWF WWooFers drama team also travelled to the four target communities to present plays (theatre) to the target communities. These plays centre on marine conservation themes and include topics such as coral reef health and marine turtle conservation.

There is some scepticism in 2 of the target communities (Karaka and Kekoro) over the value of MPAs and sustainable management of marine resources. This is due to the fact that WWF worked in these communities prior to the ethnic tension and was unable to complete earlier projects. Sustainable livelihood components of earlier projects were never achieved and these communities are still waiting for proof that marine resource management can improve their community's socio-economic situation. In addition, earlier efforts to pass a Resource Management Ordinance in Kekoro failed due to the complications during the political instability. The project manager has addressed this scepticism by taking much time and effort to clearly explain the objectives of the Darwin project and to develop clear partnership agreements outlining roles and responsibilities of the parties. Conversely the communities of Nusatuva and Boboe show great enthusiasm for the project and demonstrate a great capacity for self-help. Their dedication is a model for surrounding communities and there continues to be much informal exchange of information and experiences.

Year 2 work has been prepared and is presented below. Monitoring and Evaluation to be conducted in May may result in some adjustments to this programme. WWF SI normally conducts a monitoring and evaluation for all projects at the end of its financial year in June.

Year 2 Workplan

Date	Financial Year 2006/7	Key Milestones
April		1.6.2 Complete education tool kit & multi- media materials/ posters
	*	1.8.2 Completion of reports on PRA for Community 1-4
May		1.8.3 Look & Learn visit to Arnavon Marine Conservation Area
June		1.7.3 Commence Mangroves survey in four locations identified for potential MPAs
July		2.1.1 Seagrass Watch and Reef Check training Community 1 & 2
		2.1.2 Marine Biological survey for Community 1 & 2
August		1.11.2 Complete Mangroves survey project report.
		2.2.1 Management Planning in Community 1 & 2
		2.2.2 Initiate community monitoring programme Comms. 1 & 2
September		2.3.1 Seagrass Watch and Reef Check training Comms. 3 & 4
October		2.4.1 Marine Biological survey for Community 3 & 4
		2.4.2 Radio broadcast - awareness
November		2.5.1 Management Planning in Community 3 & 4
		2.5.2 Initiate community monitoring programme Comms. 3 & 4
		2.5.3 Drama performance – Community 3 & 4
		2:5.4 Commence development of GIS maps for proposed MPAs
December		2.6.1 Scuba training for community representatives
		2.6.2 Commence documentation of MPA and guidelines for 4 proposed MPAs
January		2.6.3 Interim Monitoring & evaluation of project progress
		2.6.4 Look and Learn to Tetepare Island MPA & Baniata turtle conservation project
February		2.7.1 Complete GIS maps
		2.7.2 Complete documentation of MPA and guidelines for 4 proposed MPAs
		2.7.3 Radio broadcast - awareness
		2.7.4 Commence Seagrass/Algae Communities survey

March		2.8.1 Prepare draft Resource Management Orders for 4 MPAs
		2.8.2 Feasibility of Sustainable Livelihoods
		2.8.4 Fisher Workshop – Community 1 & 2
April	W	2.9.1 Partnership agreements with 4 communities
		2.9.2 Commence implementation of management plans
		2.9.3 Lodge RMOs with Western Province
ä		2.9.5 Compile Photographic Library – catalogue and production
May		2.10.1 Training workshop for communities on appropriate sustainable livelihood topic
		2.10.2 Update WWF SI website
		2.10.3 Complete Seagrass/Algae Communities survey report.
June		2.11.1 Radio broadcast – awareness
		2.11.2 Monitoring and evaluation of Year 2
		2.11.3 Technical report, workplan and budget preparation for Yr 3

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable. This report is for Year 1 of a 3 year project.

6. Partnerships

Regular communication between WWF Solomon Islands and WWF South Pacific Programme staff is maintained with WWF UK through the Marine Programme Leader Louise Heaps who is based in Suva at WWF SPPO. Regular visits occur by staff from WWF SPPO to WWF SI. The Marine Programme Leader visited the Gizo field office and some of the community sites in August and assisted the project manager in recruitment and project management. There have been no difficulties with this relationship rather WWF SI staff have been well supported by WWF SPPO during this project. The WWF SPPO regional representative visited Solomon Islands in Feb 2006 and had occasion to travel to some of the communities and see the projects firsthand. This was a valuable opportunity for community members and WWF staff to meet with senior management at the regional office and to assess progress on WWF's programming, including the Darwin project.

The project has been able to collaborate with a WWF-World Fish joint marine aquaculture project in the Gizo marine area. Currently approximately 10 individuals from WWF target communities have been identified by WWF staff for training and support with this incomegenerating sustainable aquaculture project.

WWF SI is also developing relationships with the University of Queensland (UQ) which is active in biodiversity conservation and reef health research in the Marovo Lagoon. WWF hopes to have a UQ mangrove specialist assist in the coordination of mangrove surveys of the project sites in Year 2 and to train WWF staff in mangrove survey techniques.

WWF SI staff has also developed a relationship with EU Microprojects who are interested in participatory approaches used by WWF and is a potential partner in the 4 pilot sustainable livelihood projects in the target communities.

WWF SI has good relationship with Kolombangara Forests Plantation Limited, which is the only Forest Stewardship Council certified forestry company in the country. The general manager and senior staff are interested in collaborating with WWF in working with Nusatuva community (Ringi) on Kolombangara Island.

7. Impact and Sustainability

WWF SI has developed a 6 week radio programme on marine conservation and sustainable management of marine resources. The first radio broadcast session involved an introduction to the Darwin project which promoted both Darwin and the importance of maintaining biodiversity and sustainable management of marine resources in the Western Province (the radio broadcast coverage was for the Western Province only). Darwin logo has been used on the production of awareness posters and is displayed on the PRA tool-kit. There is an obvious increase in interest of sustainable management of marine resources with several new communities approaching WWF with requests for training and assistance in establishing MPAs. These have been mainly communities from the Western Province although requests have also come from other provinces so interest levels are believed to be higher as a result of these radio and awareness efforts.

The exit strategy includes 4 elements: 1) Legal backing through a Resource Management Order, providing a framework setting out the management tools for an MPA or harvesting limits for resources plus infringement penalties. 2) training & capacity building for communities to provide them with the skills to carry out monitoring & management of MPAs. The communities will also be encouraged to join the SILMMA Network for support & ongoing learning/networking opportunities. Awareness raising will also be a key part so that officers of the provincial government understand the MPA system and will be supportive of communities establishing community based MPAs. 3) This project will identify appropriate sustainable livelihood projects and establish a pilot project (incl. training) in each of the four participating communities. 4) WWF SI is part of an international and regional network and has the support of a wide range of expertise which can be an important resource to the communities.

8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

Project implement	tation timetable	
Date	Financial year 2006	Key milestones
July	Completed	1.1.1 Recruitment of project manager and four field officers
August	Completed	1.2.1 Training needs analysis for WWF SI staff
	Completed	1.2.2 Develop training programme for WWF SI staff Implement
	Completed	1.2.3 WWF SI staff training programme
September	Completed	1.3.1 Prepare education tool kit & multi-media materials/posters
	Completed	1.3.2 Establish data base for biological data
October	Completed	1.4.1 Community liaison in Community 1 & 2
	Completed	1.4.2 Radio broadcast – awareness
	Completed	1.4.3 Prepare education tool kit & multi-media materials/posters
November	Completed	1.5.1 Community liaison in Community 3 & 4
	Completed	1.5.2 Participatory Rural Appraisal in community 1 & 2
December	Delayed – May 06	1.6.1 Western Provincial Government awareness workshop
	TBC – April 06 Completed	1.6.2 Complete education tool kit & multi- media materials/ posters 1.6.3 Interim Monitoring & Evaluation of project progress.
January/February	Completed	1.7.1 Participatory Rural Appraisal in community 3 & 4
	In-progress	1.7.2 Preparation of reports on PRA for Community 1 & 2
	Delayed – June 06	1.7.3 Commence Mangroves survey in four locations identified for potential MPAs
March	In-progress	1.8.1 Preparation of reports on PRA for Community 3 & 4
VII	In-progress	1.8.2 Completion of reports on PRA for Community 1-4
	Delayed – April 06	1.8.3 Look & Learn visit to Arnavon Marine Conservation Area
April	In-progress	1.11.1 Update WWF SI website
	Delayed – June 06	1.11.2 Complete Mangroves survey project report.
	Completed	1.11.3 Radio broadcast – awareness
	Completed	1.11.4 Technical report, workplan and budget preparation for Yr 2

Output 1 has been wholly achieved with communities demonstrating greater awareness of the status, conservation and management of their marine resources. All four communities have been trained in resource monitoring techniques although have had limited time to carry these out independently of WWF presence in the community (this is an aim for Year 2 and 3). Output 2 has been partially achieved with communities actively engaged in the PRA process and establishing preliminary boundaries for their MPAs. Output 3 has also been partially achieved with the collection of socioeconomic data in 4 communities and the establishment of a biological database. Outputs 4 and 5 are Year 2 outputs and hence are not assessed in this report. Output 6 has been achieved with regular Monitoring and Evaluation and awareness materials and programmes conducted. Some activities have been delayed and re-scheduled pending availability of regional experts (in the case of mangrove surveys which will be conducted in June 2006) and pending availability of government representatives (in the case of the Western Provincial government workshop). Outputs 4 and 5 are Year 2 outputs and hence are not assessed in this report.

WWF SI aims to re-broadcast the Darwin radio programme to the whole of Solomon Islands next year and is currently seeking funds to do so. Target audience will be expanded to include communities across the Solomons not just those in the Western Province. WWF SI has also completed a signboard for the Gizo Market (under a different grant) which is now a bulletin board for dissemination of information on Darwin activities and other marine conservation activities of WWF. As this is only Year 1 of the project, it is too early to tell how the host country will succeed in disseminating information on activities, but WWF SI is hopeful that the Western Province government is taking a greater interest in marine conservation.

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	TOTAL
6A	Training programme for WWF staff	9	9
	- 1 project manager		
	- 2 capacity building officers		
	- 1 marine officer		
	- 1 marine assistant		
	- 4 field officers		
6B	Scuba training (6 people for 5 days)	30	84
	PRA workshop training (9 people for 2 days)	18	
	Reef Check (9 people for 2 days)	18	
	Sea Grass Watch (9 people for 2 days)	18	
19C	Local Radio Interviews	5	5
14A	PRA workshops	4	4
	- 4 communities		
General	Monitoring and Evaluation Report	1	2
Report	Technical Report to Donor	1	

Internal WWF SI reports have been produced this year but are not yet publications. A PRA tool-kit has also been developed and an educational handbook is underway but both are in editorial stages and have not yet been printed and are expected to be printed in Year 2.

9. Project Expenditure

Financial Report for Year 1 has been send to WWF UK on April 10, 2006.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

Using the performance indicators set against each activity as per the Logical Framework table, the WWF SI project coordination team met in December 2005 to conducted monitoring and evaluation (see attached report). WWF will also conduct a Year 1 Monitoring and Evaluation session in May at the end of its internal financial to assess progress against the indicators. WWF staff and representatives from the target communities will report on the achievements, analyse the achievements, outline what has not been achieved, reasons for any delays, problems, issues and actions for remediation required. This will be written up as an M&E report to the donor. Lessons learned during the project will be fed back into and inform the project activities and are used in developing the Year 2 workplan.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Actions required/planned for	next period
Progress and Achievements	April 2005-Mar 2006
Measurable Indicators	
Project summary	

Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve

- The conservation of biological diversity,
- The sustainable use of its components, and
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

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sustainable income generating activities. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and productivity within the Bismarck Solomon development of new community managed resource management practices such as Seas Ecoregion through appropriate maintain marine biodiversity and fisheries To support Solomon Islands peoples biodiversity are maintained. strategic planning government for policy development & participating community. generating enterprise established for each managed MPAs. monitoring programmes for the community Western Province by June 2008. Biological surveys demonstrating marine Baseline data being used by National At least 1 pilot sustainable income the capacity to undertake community Members of the 4 target communities with marine protected areas established in the Minimum of 4 new community managed 4 communities have begun demarcation of 4 PRAs have been conducted in their MPA areas communities monutoring in Reef Check monitoring programmes 80 community members have been trained providing regular field reports to WWF SI liaising closely with community members -4 field officers have been trained and are 10 community women trained in Sea Grass Target Communities and NGO remain Mangrove and biological surveys Next period: excited and receptive to conservation and resource management and will require more experience are more sceptical of marine government members on PRA processes and are applying them in the communities communities is key to maintaining this committed because of regular contact with Look and Learn visit Completion of PRA reports marine monitoring. Boboe and Nusatuva communities very Karaka and Kekoro communities had Provincial Community Development Plan. report information incorporated into communication. WWF SI. Having field officers based in has begun. Nusatuva community PRA Contact with national and provincial Field assistants have developed new skills

	in Educational materials, including 2 posters (report any lessons learned resulting from and a PRA tool-kit were prepared and are the project & highlight key actions planning awaiting publishing.	MPAs Community liaison in 4 communities is Posters have to be simple and have high occurring. Each community visited twice by visual impact to generate community WWF staff and more frequently by field interest	promote awareness and understanding of high level of illiteracy marine protection issues.	received by the communities, governments and other stakeholders. Programmes are	humorous and use local expressions and language to pass on information. Radio and have been well received	Next period:	PRA tool-kit to be published	Communities demarcating MPA boundaries
	4 target communities participating in community resource monitoring programmes.	4 target communities establishing MPAs and abiding by management rules established for the MPAs.			8			
Outputs	Output 1. Communities have a greater under- standing of the status, conservation and management of their marine resources	and are empowered to manage near shore marine resources for subsistence and artisanal uses.	200			2		

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alternative livelihood enterprises. of marine resources in the MPAs and for Output 2. Enhanced capacity of identifying and establishing appropriate for participating in sustainable management communities, partners and WWF SI staff participating community. enterprise identified and assessed for each appropriate government department, 1 pilot workshops, in collaboration with baseline and monitoring. communities participating in biological monitoring techniques, 4 target Following training in marine resource Devices in open water. specifically provided Fish Attracting management of marine resources. and WWF Staff to participate in sustainable On completion of alternate livelihood level of harvest on near shore reefs and use Capacity built for communities, partners Through 2 workshops local fishers reduce and a training programme for WWF SI postponed until May 2006 due to time Marine Conservation Area has been representatives to Tetepare Island until May 2006 due to time constraints was conducted in October 2005. officers, and Capacity building officer Seagrass watch training for field conducted in October 2005. officer/sustainable livelihood officer was project manager and Capacity building Capacity building officer/sustainable training was conducted for field officers, field officers. Scuba diver training was conducted for 4 staff was implemented in September Provincial members has been delayed Awareness workshop for Western Reef check training for field officers, livelihood officer and Marine Assistant constraints of host organization. In Sept 2005 PRA workshop processes Training needs analysis was undertaken Look and Learn visit for community surveys are easy for the Field Officers, but sustainable management understanding of marine resources and Communities have an enhanced under development to address this. communities. A field manual training kit is limited number of computers. reports due to limited computer skills and Field Officers take a long time to complete they lack information to give to Hands-on activities such as monitoring and

I data established. I data established. I data established. I data established. I Reef Check and Sea Grass Watch training and surveys completed (see appended report). Socio-economic surveys conducted in 4 communities (see appended Kekoro PRA report). Training for GIS software has occurred for WWF SI staff and Field Assistants. Appraisal was a and Pienuna ov and in Boboe in February and regional experts.	orts for reporting Finalize PRA reports and report back to communities. nities on Finalize PRA reports and report back to communities.	nd is not assessed in this report.	nd is not assessed This is a Year 2 output and is not assessed in this report.
Mangrove surveys in each of the four proposed MPA locations have been delayed due to lack of experts. Rescheduled for Year 2. Determine MPA boundaries for each community managed MPA (1-4) (Part of PRA and report back) Participatory Rural Appraisal was completed in Karaka and Pienuna communities in Oct/Nov and in Boboe and Nusatuva villages in February and March 2006.	Preparation of PRA reports for reporting back to each community underway. Report back to Communities on outcomes of PRA underway.	This is a Year 2 output and is not assessed in this report.	This is a Year 2 output and is not assessed in this report.
Biological baseline data for four (4) target MPA areas available on a data base for govt and stakeholders. 3.2 Socio-economic indicators collected and measured in the four (4) target communities.		Management plans for MPAs by end Y3 Monitoring programme developed collaboratively and implemented by the 4 communities. Partnership agreements in place with the 4 communities.	At least 1 pilot sustainable income generating enterprise established in each of the 4 participating communities by year 3.
Output 3. Biological and socio economic data collection and analysis		Output 4. Management plans established and community based monitoring programmes implemented.	Output 5. Identification & estab. of pilot sustainable income generating projects appropriate to target communities.

		Output 6. Lessons learned and documented and distributed.	
Communications and awareness.	and lessons learned for policy development & strategic planning	guide for future MPA and sustainable development projects.	Lessons from 3 year project being used as a
	imuanye.	WWF SI website. M&E reports available for Darwin	Lessons learned in hard format and on
	Lessons learned are informing development of Year 2 workplans.	completed and sent to WWF SPPO (see appended report). End of Year M&E scheduled for May 2006.	A 6 month lessons learned report