



FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

ON THE PROJECT

**SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SITES
GLOBALLY IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY
IN THE PACIFIC**



ENV/RPA/02/0648/TF

ANNEX VI

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Description

1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract:

BirdLife International

1.2. Name and title of the contact person:

Mr Don Stewart

1.3. Name of partners in the Action:

BirdLife International, with its office at Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, CB3 0NA
Cambridge, UK

1.4. Title of the Action:

Sustainable Management of Sites Globally Important for Biodiversity in the Pacific

1.5. Contract number:

ENV/RPA/02/0648/TF

1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period¹:

7 September 2003 – 7 March 2008

1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):

Pacific Region

- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- New Caledonia
- Palau

1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups² (if different) (including numbers of women and men):

The target groups defined in this Action are:

1. **Local civil society and communities** – All stakeholders involved at sites of global biodiversity importance, especially communities interested in driving their own initiatives, and key communities involved in follow-up activities. IBAs on islands cover a high percentage of land-area. This is variable between countries and less so for larger islands, but it is clear that a large proportion of the rural population of each country will be included in the regional set of IBAs identified.
2. **Local and provincial governments** – All provincial / local governments in the four participating countries, and indirectly benefiting their constituents.
3. **National civil society** – Direct benefit to collaborative NGOs, notably the national lead partners, totalling about 30 national groups. Indirect benefits to their membership and the beneficiaries of their projects and advocacy, varying from local groups to national.

¹ The entire implementation period of the Action

² “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

4. **National governments** – Primarily the environmental departments in each of the four participating nations; also the other departments of these nations and new accession countries.
5. **Regional and international institutions** – Direct benefit to *circa* 10 regional and 10 international institutions, with 100s of staff participating directly in committee work, and some indirect influence over the global development and conservation policy development affecting the entire Pacific population.
6. **BirdLife International membership** – The BirdLife International partnership has at total membership of 1.8 million, plus family and friends, in 110 countries. All benefit from the global IBA programme.

Note: the original Description of Operation did not distinguish between target groups and beneficiaries

1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):

Same as in 1.7.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

This project initiated the BirdLife International “Important Bird Area (IBA) Programme” in the Pacific.

The Important Bird Area Programme of BirdLife International aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of sites that are of critical importance for the survival of the world's birds and other biodiversity (IBAs). IBAs are identified, monitored and protected by national and local organisations, working on the ground, hence the IBA Programme is a powerful way to build national institutional capacity and to set an effective conservation agenda: it is far more than a technical research exercise.

The Important Bird Area criteria are internationally agreed, standardised, quantitative and scientifically defensible. They do one or more of three things: hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened species; are one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species; and/or have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory species. By definition, IBAs are internationally agreed priorities for conservation action – small enough to be conserved in their entirety and often already part of a protected-area network.

2.1. Activities and results

Please list all the activities in line with Annex 1 of the contract since the last interim report if any or during the reporting period

This section reports on activities in Annex 1 of the contract. The activities were presented as A) Regional activities and B) National activities.

A. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.7.1 Project office opened in Fiji

The project office in Suva, Fiji, shared with another NGO, was opened at the start of the Action, and initially provided adequate facilities and space. However, following the development of the BirdLife Fiji Programme, the office was moved to new premises in mid 2007 with significant improvements to office facilities which now comply with local health and safety regulations.

The result of the activity has been that the BirdLife International Pacific Partnership Secretariat (BLIPPS) and the BirdLife International Fiji Programme (BLIFP) have established a functional office that has facilitated the development of capacity to implement site-based conservation activities in Fiji and the wider Pacific. The BLIPPS has grown from a staff of one at the start of the Action to five at the close and the BLIFP from zero to five.

BirdLife International (‘BirdLife’) is a global Partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.

BirdLife Partners operate in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide. Partners are grouped within geographic regions for the purposes of planning and implementing regional programmes.

The BirdLife Secretariat is the co-coordinating and servicing body of BirdLife International. Its headquarters are in Cambridge, UK, with decentralised offices in six regions, including in Fiji for the Pacific.

The BirdLife Fiji Programme is the national conservation programme established by BirdLife International in Fiji pending the development of an eligible conservation NGO there.

1.7.2 Collaboration with experts and institutions

BirdLife International operates in Fiji under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Fiji (Department of Environment). National implementing BirdLife Partner organisations in this Action have also established formal working relationships with their national governments and relevant institutes. Key relationships are:

- Fiji: with the University of the South Pacific (USP), Department of Biology and the Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), the National Trust of Fiji (NTF) and recently with a newly established National NGO, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti (NFMV).
- French Polynesia: most notably with the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment and the Department of Agriculture.
- New Caledonia: with the Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), Institute pour Recherché pour le Développement (IRD) and provincial governments, particularly Province Nord; and with Conservation International (CI).
- Palau: with the Division of Forestry, Conservation and Enforcement; and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

At the regional level, partnership agreements were signed with the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII), providing technical support for the management of invasive species, and with the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), disseminating information on invasive species. Additionally, an MoU was signed with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) to develop joint work plans. SPREP is also a key partner, with BirdLife, in the establishment and support of the Birds Working Group (BWG), a sub-group of the Round-table for Nature Conservation.³

The result of the activity has been strengthened relationships between national Partners / the Fiji Programme and respective government departments, agencies and NGOs, relationships that have continued beyond the implementation phase of the Action. For example, in New Caledonia, Province Nord is supporting an SCO project officer to work on IBAs, while Manu receives financial support from the Government of French Polynesia. The joint work plan between BLI and SPREP includes the dissemination of project results in Pacific countries where there is no BirdLife Partner NGO.

1.7.3 Project staff and committees recruited and inducted

The project management team, comprising a Project Coordinator, Senior Technical Advisor and Office and Finance Manager, was recruited on schedule and remained in place at the end of the Action. In addition, following the recommendations of the mid-term review (MTR), an Administrative Assistant was recruited to support the project team.

Two staff were initially recruited to the Fiji Programme and increased to five staff by the close of the Action. Implementing partners in French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau all recruited IBA coordinators and implemented project components according to work plans. A Regional Seabird Programme Manager was recruited in 2007 to undertake an advisory role for implementing partners in the management of IBAs supporting globally important seabird colonies.

The project's Technical Advisory Group convened in December 2003 to provide guidance for the initiation of the Action. However, as the programme of work developed, advisory roles were devolved to national-level Project Steering Committees in the four countries to guide implementation of work plans since sufficient technical advice existed within the Partnership and it was considered more appropriate to develop national forums to give enhanced ownership of project results.

³ The Round Table for Nature Conservation was established in 1997/98. It consists of a number of working groups that monitor certain objectives of the "Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region, 2003-2007"

The result of the activity has been to strengthen the three NGO implementing partners and skills levels by the end of the Action. For example, SCO has grown from an un-staffed NGO at the start of the Action to having three full-time conservation officers; Manu has grown from one to three full time conservation staff and Palau Conservation Society from 15 staff to 24 by the end of Action.

1.7.4 Project negotiates government support

Government support was gained in the four implementing countries, extending to government representatives participating on all four national-level steering committees. The main government agencies that contributed to this Action were:

- In Fiji: the Department of Environment and the Department of Forestry;
- In French Polynesia: the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Department of Agriculture;
- In New Caledonia: the Provincial governments of Province Nord and Province Sud;
- In Palau: the Division of Forestry, Conservation and Enforcement; as well as to a lesser extent the Environmental Quality Protection Board; the Ministry of Resources & Development and the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination.

The result has been that governments have gained greater awareness and ownership of project outputs, while governments in New Caledonia, Palau and French Polynesia have financially supported implementing partners post-project. The Government of Fiji has remained engaged, participating in IBA management planning processes.

1.7.5 Project Coordinator facilitates secondment of government and NGO staff

Three government staff were seconded to the project: the Fiji Programme Co-ordinator was seconded from the Department of Agriculture and remained with the Fiji Programme following his term of secondment. The Manu Project Officer, seconded from the Government of French Polynesia (Department of Agriculture), returned to Government and has taken up the vice-presidency of Manu's Board of Directors. In New Caledonia, a field officer who undertook extensive field work with IRD has since become IBA coordinator for SCO. This has resulted in an enhanced capacity at a national level and strong government-level ownership of project outputs.

1.7.6 Project management system established

A project management system was established centrally with the Project Co-ordinator as the focal point managing the Senior Technical Advisor and Finance and Office Manager. Project co-ordinators in each country acted as focal points for reporting and advice. A quarterly financial and technical reporting schedule was initially implemented by Partners, but the frequency of reporting was found to be overly time-consuming. The MTR in March 2006 resulted in an extensive review of the logframe to enhance its efficiency as a project management tool. Reporting schedules were then modified to ease the work burden on project officers. The revised logframe and reporting requirements were easier to manage and provided useful project management protocols for follow-up projects.

1.7.7 Fiji national programme started

The Fiji Programme was initiated in September 2003 with a project officer on secondment from the Department of Agriculture together with a project assistant. In 2005, the emphasis shifted from priority site identification to dissemination of results and a programme of community-based conservation on selected sites. The team was expanded and at the close of the Action comprised five staff, four of whom are conservationists under the age of 30 who have received intensive training. Co-finance from other donors, including the Darwin Initiative and the Regional Natural Heritage Programme, resulted in the development of an effective, focused conservation programme in Fiji working on four forest IBAs to establish community-managed protected areas and a programme of research and island restoration on the outer islands.

1.7.8 Management and training for national programmes

A programme of advisory and training visits was established between staffs of the project management team and implementing partners. Personnel exchanges were subsequently diversified from an initial focus on the Project Co-ordinator visiting implementing partners to take advantage of other training, shared learning and network development opportunities. Key visits included:

- New Caledonia: The Project Coordinator visited in 2004, the Senior Technical Advisor in 2006 and the Project Co-ordinator in 2007 and the Seabird Programme Manager in 2007 and 2008
- French Polynesia: The Project Coordinator visited in 2004, the Senior Technical Advisor 2007 and the Seabird Programme Manager and the Project Coordinator in 2007.
- Palau: The Project Coordinator visited in 2004 and 2007, the Senior Technical Advisor in 2004 and 2006, while the Seabird Programme Manager supported the rollout of conservation projects on IBAs during a visit in 2007.

Following the MTR in March 2006, and the revised logical framework which placed a greater emphasis on strengthening the regional network (instead of developing technical skills), the Action started including more ‘exchange programmes’ between implementing partners:

- Project officers from New Caledonia and French Polynesia visited Fiji in March 2006 to develop proposals to manage alien species on IBAs.
- Four staff from Palau visited Fiji in 2006 to receive training on restoration of IBAs.
- Project officer from New Caledonia participated in an IBA invasive species management programme in Fiji in 2007 for the purpose of skills development.

The main data management tool used by BirdLife International is the World Bird Data Base (WBDB - *see box below*). This is the tool through which the BirdLife Partnership manages, analyses and reports on species, IBAs and Endemic Bird Areas. All four implementing partners received training in entering IBA data with support from Cambridge-based experts. IBA data from the Fijian, French Polynesian, New Caledonian and Palauan IBAs has been uploaded to www.birdlife.org/datazone/sites/index.html.

The World Bird Database provides the information management tool through which the BirdLife Partnership manages, analyses and reports on the breadth of its scientific knowledge - Species, Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs). The database architecture provides some 120 tables covering in excess of 1,400 data fields. Data are being added continually, and certain tables already hold in excess of 250,000 records, with information on some 10,000 species of bird, over 8,000 IBAs and 218 EBAs.

1.7.9 Induction and training workshop for project employees

All project staff participated in an induction week in Fiji in November 2003. This was combined with a one-week meeting of the BirdLife Pacific Partnership allowing training and induction of project staff to be combined with the meeting of the Project Steering Group as well as with more general information exchange between Partners and building of relationships.

1.7.10 Needs assessment and gender analysis

Staff were recruited on the skills’ needs of the project and decisions on staff recruitment by steering committees also examined development potential of staff resulting in the recruitment of several early-career individuals who received training. BirdLife International’s policy of gender equity ensured that the composition of the project team reflected an equitable and merit-based approach to staffing so that the project achieved gender balance among staff and key focal persons. At the close of the Action, the director and project officer in PCS were

both women, the programme director and one conservation officer in Manu were also women as were three of five members of the Fiji Programme, indicating an equitable gender balance.

1.7.11 Criteria for site selection researched, agreed and published

Criteria for site selection were produced as a technical report and disseminated to the four implementing partners for use as a guide for priority site selection and also as a guide for the identification of IBAs through desk studies in countries where there was no BirdLife Partner NGO. A key technical output has been the research and dissemination of water-bird thresholds for the region.

Summary of IBA Criteria	
Category	Criterion
A1. Globally threatened species	The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened bird species, or other bird species of global conservation concern.
A2. Restricted-range species	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the restricted-range bird species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA).
A3. Biome restricted assemblages	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the group of bird species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.
A4. Congregations	(i) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis $\geq 1\%$ of a graphical population of a waterbird species
	(ii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, $\geq 1\%$ of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species
	(iii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, $\geq 20,000$ waterbirds or $\geq 10,000$ pairs of seabirds of one or more species.
	(iv) The site is known or thought to exceed thresholds set for migratory species at bottleneck sites

1.7.12 Desk-reviews for non-fieldwork countries

Desk reviews were completed for thirteen Pacific countries and territories which are not part of the BirdLife network:

- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Pitcairn Island Group (completed by RSPB – the BirdLife Partner in the UK)
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

These studies were completed in consultation with national agencies and results and materials have been disseminated. Together with the four field-based studies, a total of 17 regional IBA inventories have been completed.

The list of countries for which IBA desk studies were undertaken was modified during the mid-term review as a part of the revision of the logframe and overall redesign of the project. Changes were mostly made to certain proposed countries due to a better understanding of the opportunities and constraints on the desk review approach. Modifications were as follows with a brief summary of the reasons:

The Cook Islands have a small and unstaffed BirdLife Partner it was agreed that the preferred approach would be to develop a project to undertake field-based research and at the same time develop the capacity of the partner. This was beyond the scope of the Action and several project proposals have been submitted to donors. Papua New Guinea: after extensive discussions with regional experts, it was felt that technical and logistical difficulties involving PNG should result in its removal from the priority list. Specific challenges including data deficiencies, the difficulty of delineating priority sites in extensive forest and constraints on disseminating results in-country, require a more in-depth approach ideally through a national Partner or Programme office. West Papua has also not had IBAs identified for similar reasons. In Samoa, a field and desk-based IBA review was underway at the end of the Action implemented by the Birdlife Partner. Results are due in late 2009. American Samoa is biogeographically identical to Samoa and it was considered easier and more accurate to apply IBA criteria to American Samoa at the end of the Samoan research.

Southern French Territories were considered best dealt with as French Overseas Territories and not part of the tropical (Central and South-western) Pacific covered by the BirdLife Pacific Partnership

However, Niue and Nauru were included in the desk reviews because as independent nations of the Pacific and participants in regional environmental forums there seemed to be good reason for their inclusion.

1.7.13 Palau, New Caledonia and French Polynesia national offices opened and programmes started

National project components were initiated in Palau in November 2003, New Caledonia in February 2004 and French Polynesia in July 2005. Palau was the only implementing partner NGO with an existing office facility. The subsequent establishment of offices for SCO and Manu resulted in those NGOs maintaining permanently equipped offices and effective operational bases.

1.7.14 Training workshops for all employees and invited external participants held annually

An initial induction workshop was held in Fiji in November 2003 to provide technical training. Because annual workshops would be expensive, and the technical capacity of the Partners exceeded expectations, this activity was realigned with the findings of the MTR that less emphasis should be placed on technical detail, which was well covered by remote mentoring (through email and Skype) by the Senior Technical Advisor and BirdLife staff in Cambridge (BirdLife's HQ), and greater emphasis should be placed on network development. Subsequent network meetings, attended by representatives of all Pacific Partners, included:

- Pacific Partnership meeting in 2005 in Fiji.
- Pacific Partnership meeting in 2007 in Palau.
- SPREP / BirdLife International Bird Working Group meeting and the 8th Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Papua New Guinea in October 2007.

These meetings focused on sharing lessons learned between Partners, development of follow-on plans for site-based management and the development of a Regional Strategy. In addition, Partners participated in other training opportunities including two staff from PCS visiting the UK office for IBA and data management training in 2007, funded by the UK Government, and two staff from the Fiji programme participating in an invasive species management programme in Pohnpei developing technical skills for IBA management.

1.7.15 Production of best-practice manuals

Detailed technical guidelines on the identification of IBAs in the Pacific Region were produced and disseminated, two versions were produced an extended technical version and an abridged version for less scientific audiences. These were disseminated as PDFs. In addition, the IBA inventories included extensive additional information and acted as IBA manuals in a form that was attractive and presentable and were well received by target audiences.

1.7.16 Annual appraisals and reviews

BirdLife International conducts an annual appraisal system that was utilised for all project management team members and Fiji Programme staff throughout the Action. This proved to be an effective and reliable system for measuring staff performance and for staff to give feedback and identify training and development needs. While the appraisal process is not mandatory for implementing partners, its procedures were advocated among all implementing partners. Annual auditing and revision of the overall project workplan was also undertaken.

1.7.17 Linking with other regional reviews and opportunities

The Action liaised closely with the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) process (*see box below*). All IBAs are KBAs and in many countries IBAs have formed the basis of KBA inventories while IBA polygons have been made available to Conservation International which collects and manages KBA data. The WBDB system was designed to include KBA and IBA data. KBAs formed the basis of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot profile which has identified 60 priority sites for action in this sub-region. The CEPF was, at the close of the Action, developing a 5-year, US\$5.2m funding instrument to support work on priority sites and species.

Important Bird Areas are part of a larger network of Key Biodiversity Areas — the most important sites for terrestrial biodiversity conservation worldwide. Key Biodiversity Areas form the anchors of a systematic ecological network. Like IBAs, they are identified based on the species they hold. We generally have good data on the status and distribution of bird species. However, the information for many other species is poor or patchy, often making it hard to identify the critical sites for these species. There is growing evidence that networks of IBAs, though identified using information on birds, are disproportionately important for other animals and plants. That is to say, IBA networks are good at capturing threatened, endemic and representative species for other terrestrial groups. See also www.birdlife.org/action/science/sowb/state/28.html

1.7.18 Regional results published and disseminated

The four IBA directories have been published as hardcopy books (Fiji, New Caledonia and Palau) and as a PDF (French Polynesia). See also section 2.6.

The 13 desk studies are being disseminated as a part of a shared programme of work with SPREP and through the World Bird Data Base.

1.7.19 Develop and agree on a strategy for project expansion to include more national programmes within the Pacific

The Action facilitated parallel work in several Pacific countries. For example:

- Samoa initiated a two-year, field-based IBA project in 2007 funded by the *British Bird Watching Fair* and implemented by BirdLife Partner *OLSSI*. This work was initially

planned as a desk based review but the availability of donor funding permitted this to be undertaken as a more extensive study with the BirdLife Partner.

- Australia is due to complete a three-year field study in 2009 funded by Rio Tinto and implemented by BirdLife Partner *Birds Australia*;
- New Zealand initiated a two-year study to identify Marine IBAs (micas) in 2006, and has announced an intention to undertake a review of terrestrial IBAs by 2010;
- In Hawaii, a desk study is being compiled by the Audubon Society as part of a national programme for the USA.

1.7.20 Develop and agree on a strategy for project expansion to enable follow-up activities where requested by local stakeholders

A strategic portfolio of follow-on projects was developed by the Fiji Programme, Manu, SCO, and PCS. As a result, projects being implemented or agreed by donors at the end of the Action included:

- *The BirdLife Pacific Islands Restoration Project, funded by the Packard Foundation (c.900KUS\$)* - Implemented by Partners in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau and designed to build capacity and pilot the restoration of island ecosystems by the management, eradication and quarantining of invasive alien species. The project is working on IBAs in the four countries.
- *The BirdLife Pacific Seabird IBAs Project, funded by the Packard Foundation (200KUS\$)* - Implemented in Fiji and French Polynesia to enhance information about remote seabird IBAs and gather data on management options. The project is initiating the process of identifying marine IBAs in the Pacific.
- *The BirdLife Pacific Parrot Conservation Project, funded by the British Birdwatching Fair (215UKP)* - Activities include education, awareness and quarantine measures to prevent the introduction of rats in IBAs in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the reintroduction of the Rimatara lorikeet to the Cook Islands from French Polynesia (completed in 2007) and supporting IBA identification in Samoa.
- *The BirdLife Fiji Community-Based Protected Area Project, funded by the Darwin Initiative (200kUKP)* - This project includes training in fundraising and management planning, as well as IBA monitoring. Work has progressed at three sites in Fiji with adoptions of declarations of community conservation areas.
- *The BirdLife Fiji Kadavu Forest Restoration Project, funded by Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (c.50KUS\$)* - A small project supporting conservation of sustainable management of forest on Mount Washington, Kadavu. The project is working with communities to develop sustainable agriculture and reduce the pressure on forest from clearance for plantations.
- *The BirdLife Fiji - New Caledonia Exchange Project, funded by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust through PILN* - Another small project supporting the exchange of expertise on species conservation and community conservation between New Caledonia and Fiji.
- *The BirdLife International Community Conservation Fund* - The BLICCF supported projects on the Rarotonga Monarch and Fiji Petrel in 2007 and on the Fatu Hiva Monarch and Kagu in 2008 as well as several projects being implemented by conservation groups affiliated to the New Zealand Partner *Forest and Bird*.
- *The Preventing Extinctions Programme (20KUKP, see box below)* - Manu has become the 'Species Guardian' for Tahiti Monarch and Polynesian Ground-dove, receiving two grants, while NatureFiji-MareqetiViti (a young national conservation NGO in Fiji) has become the Species Guardian for the Fiji Petrel, receiving a grant to do so. NatureFiji-MareqetiViti also obtained funding from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund for the conservation of the Fiji Petrel.

The Preventing Extinctions Programme (PEP) is a BirdLife International initiative coordinating work and targeting resources towards the world's most threatened bird species; this is implicitly linked to supporting the IBA programme as almost all threatened species occur within IBAs. PEP also supports the formation of community conservation groups who take action for a specific species in 'their' IBA. The two main pillars of the Preventing Extinctions Programme are:

BirdLife Species Guardians – the people and organisations that are best placed to carry out the conservation work necessary to prevent the extinction of Critically Endangered species - and

BirdLife Species Champions – individuals, institutions and companies that are financially supporting the conservation action of the Species Guardians.

In addition, Manu and SCO obtained government funds for IBA conservation in both countries, while PCS received additional support through the US Fish and Wildlife Service to work on their IBAs.

1.7.21 Promote project within the Pacific donor community

The results of the Action were widely disseminated around the Pacific donor community and in Asia, Europe and North America. The results provided a firm, science-based set of sustainable management priorities, the first for the region. IBA results, in particular the IBA directories, have been promoted to donors, including US foundations through BirdLife's senior policy officer based in the US, resulting in support from the Packard Foundation, and by the Regional Director to RNHP, New Zealand Aid and to the Darwin Foundation. The Senior Technical advisor also sits on the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) advisory group which reviews project application for work targeted on priority sites (KBAs and IBAs)

1.7.22 Mobilise resources from regional and national bases

The EC Action has been an effective platform for developing new project proposals and leveraging co-finance (see also paragraph 1.7.20). In addition to the projects that are listed above, implementing partners obtained funds from regional donors, including:

- The Regional Natural Heritage Programme (RNHP - Australian Government). RNHP provided A\$200K to the Fiji Programme in 2005 to develop community-based conservation at four IBAs in Fiji and a model for site-based action following IBA identification.
- The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). CEPF funded several projects of implementing partners, including feasibility studies for rodent eradication on IBAs in French Polynesia and Palau, and the first successful island rat eradication in Fiji on Vatu-i-ra IBA.

B. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.7B.1 National Project Steering Committees consult and liaise with all collaborative parties and media

National Project Steering Committees were established in all four countries. The composition of these committees was diverse, reflecting the particular requirements of each implementing partner / country. All committees contained government representation including NBSAP focal points, and representatives from research institutes in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, as well as local conservationists with experience of community conservation. The role of the national Project Steering Committees was enhanced during the lifetime of the Action and supported the adoption of IBAs as national priorities and the continuation of work. This approach was also useful in attracting funding to continue the work of IBA management and placing the implementing partners as focal points for site and species management.

1.7B.2 Desk reviews of published literature and expert consultation

Extensive literature reviews for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau were assessed by national Project Steering Committees and used to establish field research priorities based on information gaps and the quality and age of data available. The most data-deficient sites that were expected to be of global importance were surveyed.

1.7B.3 Agreement on list of sites of potential importance at participative workshops

Workshops were organised in all four countries to discuss and agree on priorities for field research. They were attended by interested members from the conservation community, traditional leaders and government representatives. The workshops helped create a strong sense of ownership of IBA designations early in the research process and facilitated agreement of such designations.

1.7B.4 Initial fieldwork training for project staff

Initial fieldwork training consisted of:

- In Fiji, extensive training for local staff focused on technical skills required for bird survey fieldwork until staff were capable of undertaking surveys alone. (This high level of skill had been attained by only one person in Fiji before the Action.) The activity trained two project staff and helped to train two staff from collaborating institutions (USP and Forestry Department) to this standard. Later in the project, another two students undertook Masters studies and were trained in field work.
- In French Polynesia and New Caledonia, staff from Manu, SCO and IRD already possessed high skill levels with field work so technical training was not required.
- In Palau, training in bird recording was undertaken in February 2004 by the Senior Technical Advisor for staff of PCS. Additional training was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Variable Circular Plot (VCP) methods. This was the same method used in a 1991 survey and provided a unique opportunity gather data on changes to bird populations.

1.7B.5 Awareness workshops and presentations given to national and local fora

Awareness workshops included:

- In Fiji: community presentations formed the core of initial field work programmes, with each community whose land was surveyed being informed about the principles of IBAs and biodiversity and natural resource management. Following the initial IBA identification phase, five IBAs were selected and communities engaged (see also 1.7B.8). A range of advocacy activities was undertaken at these five IBAs, including workshops, training and Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs), resulting in the development of community-based conservation areas on two IBAs and the eradication of rats from a third. Other key activities included a BSAP workshop in 2004 with a presentation on Fiji IBAs; a tourism and resource owners meeting of c120 persons in 2006; and a Department of Environment workshop seeking to develop a more co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the BSAP.
- In French Polynesia: presentations were made to the Civil Aviation Authority, the Fisheries Service, Collège Laménais sixth-year students and a public presentation on Monarch flycatchers. Manu has a high national profile and routinely participates in events such as *Heipuni* days (equivalent to World Environment Day) and World Animal Day where the public and school children are made aware of Manu's programmes.
- In New Caledonia: extensive awareness activities included annual meetings of SCO where project activities were reported and disseminated; the establishment of a partnership with Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne (ASNNC) for dissemination of project information; regular meetings and liaison with provincial government representatives, Centre d'Initiation à l'Environnement (CIE), Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement

(CIRAD), Directorat de Ressources Naturelles (DRN) Institut Agronomique Néocalédonien (IAC) and Institute pour Recherché pour le Développement (IRD).

- In Palau: key awareness-raising activities included school visits and community meetings in all states and the development of community visioning processes. PCS works with fourteen of Palau's sixteen states to create vision statements as part of an introductory land-use planning initiative, and promoted the project during national environmental occasions such as Earth Day.

1.7B.6 Fieldwork programme

Field work programmes were initiated in 2003 in Fiji, 2004 in Palau and New Caledonia and 2006 in French Polynesia. As envisaged, this work was most extensive on larger islands such as Grand Terre in New Caledonia, Tahiti in French Polynesia and the four largest islands of Fiji. More extensive coverage was achieved in Palau where the country is smaller and there are fewer remote islands. Full surveys of some remote islands of Fiji, French Polynesia and, to an extent, New Caledonia, were not feasible but were supported by literature reviews. Data on birds, biodiversity threats to potential IBAs and social information was collected and used in the final analyses.

1.7B.7 Production of awareness materials

National Partners produced a range of awareness materials, including IBA posters for each country, leaflets on IBAs and brochures on threatened birds. In Fiji, leaflets were produced in the Fijian language promoting the conservation of two sites under particular threat and a poster aimed at communities on the identification of critically-endangered birds. Supporting materials included T-shirts in Fiji and French Polynesia promoting bird conservation. These materials were widely disseminated and have been very popular in villages and with children in all participating countries.

1.7B.8 Full support given to community-driven follow-up proposals

Community-based projects on IBAs were developed in all four implementing countries. The approaches varied between countries, depending on socio-economic conditions, history and experiences in community-based conservation. Fiji and Palau have a stronger track record in community-based conservation, as well as in developing Marine Protected Areas. The implementing partners in Fiji and Palau were also trained in skills required for effective involvement of local people in conservation, such as PRAs.

- Fiji: Forest conservation projects were initiated at five IBAs: on the Natewa Peninsula, Mount Nabukulevu, Vatu-i-ra Island, Mount Tomanivi and Taveuni, as a direct result of relationships established during field surveys where community members participated. Locally-managed Site Support Groups were established at all five IBAs (*see box below*).
- French Polynesia: Community conservation has been particularly successful on Nuku Hiva in the Society Islands where the Marquesan imperial-pigeon *Ducula galeata* was classified as Critically Endangered, the chief threat being hunting. Conservation advocacy resulted in reduced hunting pressure and the species has been down-listed to threatened.
- New Caledonia: Community conservation is also developing in New Caledonia, with advocacy work on forest conservation and the restoration of islands in the Northern Lagoon (Great Reef of Koumac) of Grand Terre.
- Palau: Action was taken on all eight identified IBAs, including a large project on Babeldaob integrating terrestrial and marine conservation, while island restoration activities were underway on Kayangel Atoll IBA and Fana IBA.

Site Support Groups (also known as IBA Local Conservation Groups and Caretaker Groups) are organised, independent groups of volunteers who work with their communities, with the national BirdLife International Partner organisation and with other organisations to promote conservation and sustainable development at Important Bird Areas. They are one of the most practical approaches to

the conservation of IBAs. The network of Site Support Groups (SSGs) covers the whole world and is still growing.

1.7B.9 Production of national site directories

Four national IBA directories were produced, three as published books and one as a PDF. The directories were written in a style that makes them understandable to wide audiences, with attractive layouts and images, while remaining technically robust. It is expected that the French Polynesian directory will be revised and produced as a printed book when further research on marine IBAs is completed in 2009.

1.7B.10 Publicity and advocacy of directories and recommendations therein

The directories contain detailed descriptions of sites identifying key threats, and make recommendations for the sustainable management of the sites. Directories and supporting materials have been disseminated to target audiences, but the main means of dissemination has remained participation in relevant meetings. Priorities for target audiences have varied from county to country in line with governance systems, for example in Fiji landowning communities (typically clans or mataqali), Provincial Government and National Government. In Palau, land owning communities and state governments; in New Caledonia, provincial governments; and in French Polynesia, the territorial government and local mayors are key advocacy contacts. Directories have also been widely disseminated through national government departments, the NGO community and the international community, in particular through SPREP.

1.7B.11 Relate recommendations with national legislation and policy through government

The implementing partners in this Action also promoted IBAs as priority areas in national government processes, notably NBSAP planning in Fiji, New Caledonia and Palau. In addition:

In Fiji, IBAs were also included in the Fiji Forest Inventory and the Fiji Forestry Policy Statement 2007 and through the National Trust of Fiji's Programme of Work on Protected Areas Project.

In French Polynesia, the IBA inventory is considered to be a very useful result by the environmental departments (Ministry of Environment and DIREN). The approach has been adopted by these departments which have signed an agreement with Manu to continue IBA activities.

In New Caledonia, Province Nord and Province Sud were at the initial stage of putting in place biodiversity conservation strategies, and the IBA inventory came at the right time to complete the preparatory work that was done by IAC (l'Institut Agronomique Néo-Calédonien) between 2003 and 2005 when they made an inventory of bird species. All relevant stakeholders, including the High Commissioner, the two Provinces, and four NGOs, had regular follow-ups and discussed for the first time a joint approach to the protection of terrestrial biodiversity in New Caledonia.

In Palau, IBAs have been included as priority sites in a number of projects including or led by government agencies, projects ecosystem-based management on Babeldaob, and management of alien species on Kayangel and Fanna Islands.

2.2. What is your assessment of the results of the Action? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes, impact and risks in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results. (Please quantify where possible; refer to Logframe Indicators).

This section reports against the revised logframe that was developed during the Mid-Term Review in March 2006. **Overall Objective:**

“To increase the number of sites of global biodiversity importance that are sustainably managed to conserve terrestrial biodiversity in the Pacific region.”

Logframe Indicators

1. *The network of NGO partners joining the BirdLife International Pacific Partnership region grows from 0 in 2001 to at least 6 in 2010.*

The number of NGOs in the Pacific Partnership rose **from zero in 2001 to eight in 2007**. Two further membership applications were under consideration at the end of the Action.

2. *All members of the BirdLife International Pacific Partnership that have adopted the IBA process are supporting site-based conservation actions for selected areas in their territories by 2010.*

In 2007, **all eight members** of the BirdLife Pacific Partnership had either initiated or agreed to undertake the IBA process in their countries or territories. Four Partners had completed the IBA process and three (Australia, New Zealand and Samoa) had projects under implementation. Cook Islands was seeking resources to initiate the process.

The Action successfully increased the number of sites of global importance managed sustainably in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau. Following project implementation, community-based conservation programmes were initiated or enhanced at **least 27 IBA sites in 4 countries**:

- Fiji: eight sites (FJ3 Natewa/Tunaloa Peninsula, FJ4 Taveuni Highlands, FJ5 Vatu-i-ra, FJ7 Tomanivi, FJ10 Viti Levu Southern Highlands, FJ11 Gau Highlands, FJ 12 Nabukulevu, FJ13Kadavu East)
- French Polynesia: seven sites (PF05 Vallees Maruapo, PF12 Ilots Rocheux de Ua Huka, PF16 Montane, PF17 Fatuhiva, PF24 Niau, PF25 Rangiroa, PF30 Tenararo)
- New Caledonia: 7 sites (Ilots du Nord Ouest, Ilots de Poindimie, Ile d’Povea, Ile de Yande, Massif des Levres, Entre les monts Nakada et Do as well as wider advocacy at several other IBAs in Province Nord)
- Palau: five sites (PW01 Ngeriung (Kayangel), PW02 Middle Ridge, PW03 Western Ridge, PW04 Ngerutechei (Babeldaob), PW07 Fana)

We can say with confidence that the action has played a key role in the promotion of sustainable management on these sites, from advocacy, enhanced information or from increased capacity to support sustainable management. It is not at this time possible to say unequivocally that sustainable management actions would not have been undertaken without the Action or to demonstrate that more priority sites are being managed in the four proponent countries than in a random sample of small island developing states. However, the box below demonstrates the role of the Action in promoting sustainable management in one country (Fiji).

Case Study Summary:

The role of IBA identification in the promotion of sustainable management in Fiji

Fiji, as the first country to complete an IBA inventory can demonstrate how the Action has promoted sustainable management on eight of 14 IBAs. In addition we identify two IBAs where conservation or sustainable management initiatives are in place that are not directly linked to the action.

Sustainable management occurred linked to the Action

FJ3 Natewa/Tunaloa Peninsula – BirdLife International Fiji Programme Community-Based Protected Area agreed under a Memorandum of Understanding is directly linked to the Action.

FJ4 Taveuni Highlands survey and community awareness work was undertaken in 2006 and a management plan was drafted but progress with Government Agencies on the adoption of the plan was slow. Later the IBA was identified as a priority under the Fiji Government's POWPA project with joint works being promoted by the National Trust of Fiji and NatureFiji and supported by Birdlife International and Conservation International.

FJ5 Vatu-i-ra was cleared of rats in 2006 and is promoted as a community PA – a direct result of the Action

FJ7 Tomanivi, has been troubled by landowner disputes and despite being a Forest Reserve and a study area by the University of the South Pacific, remains highly threatened. A direct result of the Action was that BirdLife was able to direct funding to Nature Fiji to establish a Site Support Group with a focus on education of the youth.

FJ10 Viti Levu Southern Highlands, work has been initiated by the Wildlife Conservation Society to develop a community protected area under a project managed by BirdLife International.

FJ11 Gau Highlands, a community conservation and recovery programme was initiated in 2006 for Gau, the project was promoted and funding applications made by the project team on behalf of NatureFiji. Early conservation initiatives from the 90s were unfunded and the renewed programme can be largely attributed to the Action.

FJ 12 Nabukulevu, a sustainable farming project (soil conservation on steep slopes) has been initiated to reduce agricultural pressure on forest, in parallel with a community protected area agreement. This is a direct result of the Action and the only conservation initiative on the site.

FJ13 Kadavu East, awareness work has been undertaken and communities report a willingness to protect forest under an agreement with Birdlife.

Sustainable management not related to the Action

FJ09 Sovi Basin, subject to a high investment, protected area project led by Conservation International, has not been directly influenced by the Action

FJ06 Koroyanitu has a community-based protected area predating the action and has not been influenced by the Action.

Project Purpose:

“Identification of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the Pacific region as sites of global importance for the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity.”

Logframe Indicators

1. *IBAs are identified and documented for at least 15 priority small island states in the Pacific region by 2007.*

The Action identified IBAs for **17 priority small island states** in the Pacific Region, including four detailed field-researched studies (Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau) and 13 desk-researched inventories (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Pitcairn, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna).

2. *The network of civil society and partners involved in implementing the IBA process in the Pacific region grows from 0 in 2001 to 4 in 2007.*

The network of civil society organisations implementing the IBA process in the Pacific Region increased **from zero in 2001 to seven in 2007**. By the end of the Action, the BirdLife Fiji Programme, Manu, SCO, and PCS completed their IBA inventories and were engaged in

follow-up community and conservation programmes at selected sites. Birds Australia, O le Si'osi'omaga Society Inc. (OLSSI) in Samoa, and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society in New Zealand had IBA projects under way, while a study was being implemented in Hawaii by Audubon (BirdLife in the USA). The only BirdLife partner organisation in the Pacific not yet involved in the IBA programme was the Te Ipukerea Society (TIS, Cook Islands).

3. *Four members of the BirdLife International Pacific Partnership have strategic plans being implemented by the end of 2007 to support site-based conservation of terrestrial ecosystems identified as having high priority for conservation through the IBA process.*

In 2007, the **four BirdLife implementing partners** in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau, have developed strategic plans for the conservation of IBAs and provided input to the development of BirdLife's Pacific Regional Strategy 2009-2012.

Expected Result 1:

“Materials and information describing identified IBAs, and the potential social and biodiversity benefits that can be derived from sustainable resource management available for use by target stakeholder groups in the Pacific region.”

Logframe Indicators

1. *An IBA report will be produced for each priority small island state by the end of the project. The reports for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau will be comprehensive research-based documents. Reports for other territories will be the result of desk-based research.*

A total of **17 IBA inventories** were compiled. Detailed, field-research based IBA books were produced for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau and a further 13 desk-based research reports produced for countries without BirdLife Partners.

2. *A dissemination strategy will be produced and implemented for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau*

Dissemination strategies were produced and implemented **for all four countries** (see section 2.6 for more details). The BirdLife office in Fiji kept a file including newspaper articles and other press coverage in Fiji, the Pacific region and globally e.g. through the BirdLife website (www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific).

Expected Result 2:

“Enhanced capacity of governments and civil society to implement activities promoting the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity in the Pacific region.”

Logframe Indicators

1. *Government staff and selected community representatives report that by the end of the Project they have enhanced their ability to promote the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity in their country (or community).*

There is evidence of an increased capacity in all implementing countries and territories to promote and implement the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources as a result of the Action. There has been increased capacity in the NGO sector, Government partners and communities that were involved in project activities this has primarily occurred

through staff participation in project activities resulting in skill enhancement and through the availability of IBA inventories

There has been good engagement with Government Departments and Agencies through all the implementing countries. BirdLife International signed an MOU with the Government of Fiji which to support the objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the BirdLife Fiji programme has worked closely with the Department of Environment which does not have sufficient capacity to implement conservation actions on IBAs but has promoted them as priority sites. The Department of Forestry, the competent authority for a number of reserves within IBAs, has also become engaged in the process. At the end of the project, the Conservator of Forests sat on the IBA Steering Committee and IBAs have been incorporated as a layer in the new Forestry Inventory. The National Trust of Fiji, a statutory agency, has also been an important project partner, becoming engaged in the development of community-based protected areas, while BirdLife supported an application to the Programme of Works on Protected Areas GEF-3 Grant.

In New Caledonia, provincial governments are primarily responsible for biodiversity conservation. SCO has worked closely with Province Nord (one of three provincial governments) since the outset of the project and the province has been the most supportive of the IBA process. By the end of the Action, Province Nord and Province Sud were participating in a shared programme of work on IBA conservation and Province Nord was providing financial support for an IBA officer

Manu has strong Partnerships with the Government of French Polynesia, and receives core funding for work on priority species through an annual grant to implement species and IBA conservation work. The Palau Conservation Society has formed partnerships with all state governments, the Environmental Quality Protection Board, Ministry of Resources & Development, and Office of Environmental Response & Coordination, to work on several projects.

The extensive field research has also resulted in the promotion of conservation activities by linking conservation practitioners to land-owning communities. Land tenure systems vary between Pacific countries, and traditional ownership may be recognised legally, as in Fiji, or as “customary” ownership as in New Caledonia. Community conservation activities are most developed in Palau and Fiji, where there is a stronger background in community consultation. The IBA project has directly resulted in the genesis of several community-based projects. In Fiji, forest conservation projects have been initiated on the Natewa Peninsular, Mount Nabukulevu, Vatuira Island, Mount Tomanivi and Taveuni, as a direct result of the relationships established during the field surveys where community members participated. Similarly, a number of projects have been developed in Palau, including the ecological restoration of Kayangel atoll IBA, the restoration of Fanna IBA, and an EBM project covering the three IBAs on Babeldaob Island. Community conservation has been undertaken in the French Territories, and has been carried out “intuitively”; highlighting that supporting partners in the methodology and tools of community-based conservation is a priority action. Community conservation has been particularly successful on Nuku Hiva in the Society Islands where the Marquesan imperial-pigeon *Ducula galeata* was classified as critically endangered, the chief threat being hunting. Conservation advocacy has resulted in reduced hunting pressure and the species has been down-listed to threatened. Community conservation is also developing in New Caledonia, with advocacy work on forest conservation and the restoration of islands in the Northern Lagoon (Great Reef of Koumac) of Grand Terre

2. *Each NGO partner in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau produces a strategic plan by the end of the Project that documents linkages with relevant*

stakeholders and provides a plan for future activities to promote the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity in their countries

The NGO partners to the Action have undergone organisational development over the course of the Action, including increased staffing, improved financial and administrative capacity and development of planning processes. SCO has developed from being an unstaffed NGO to having three conservation staff, formed a Partnership with Conservation International and the Board of Directors has adopted an annual IBA work planning system and the Pacific Partnership Strategy. *Manu* developed from having one staff member at the start of the project to having five full time staff, the NGO was restructured by the board of directors at the end of the Action creating an executive position and over the course of the Action developed a conservation strategy. Palau Conservation Society, the largest and most well established Partner, had at the end of the Action 24 staff members and a strategic plan for site-based conservation.

3. *Additional funding secured for priority conservation actions in each of Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau by the end of the Project.*

Implementing partners have been successful in obtaining additional funding from a range of donors. For example:

- Fiji: private sponsorship was secured to produce the IBA inventory and three projects were secured: the BirdLife Fiji Community-Based Protected Area Project, funded by the Darwin Initiative (200kUKP); the BirdLife Fiji Kadavu Forest Restoration Project, funded by Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (c.50kUS\$); and Saving Fiji's Forest Hotspots, by the Regional Natural Heritage Programme (200kUS\$).
- French Polynesia: *Manu* gained funding from the Government of French Polynesia for IBA and species conservation work and contributions of staff time to undertake the IBA project.
- New Caledonia: SCO received co-finance for IBA conservation from two provincial governments - Province Nord and Province Sud - and core funding from Conservation International.
- Palau: PCS gained funding from a range of national and US Government sources, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and a project funded by the Packard Foundation (and shared with other institutions in Palau) on ecosystem-based management.

Expected Result 3:

“Regional network built and empowered to promote sustainable forest use and biodiversity conservation for small island nations in the Pacific region.”

Logframe Indicators

1. *The BirdLife International Pacific Partnership changes to respond to the expressed needs of current and potential partners and affiliates resulting in an increased number of countries and territories being linked to the Partnership by the end of the Project (against a baseline of 0 in 2001).*

From the nil membership in 2001, the Partnership grew to **eight Affiliates, Partner Designates and full Partners** by the end of the Action (*see box below*). The New Zealand Partner Designate became a full Partner, PCS became a Partner Designate and then a full

Partner (the first in the Pacific islands), while Manu became a Partner Designate by the end of the Action.

The BirdLife Partnership consists of three groups of members:

BirdLife Partners: membership-based NGOs who represent BirdLife in their own territory. Vote holders and key implementing bodies for BirdLife's Strategy and Regional Programmes in their own territories.

BirdLife Partner Designates: membership-based NGOs who represent BirdLife in their own territory, in a transition stage to becoming full Partners. Non-vote holders.

BirdLife Affiliates: NGOs that act as a BirdLife contact with the aim of developing into a BirdLife Partner in their territory.

NB In general, when we talk about 'BirdLife Partners', we include all three categories.

The BirdLife Pacific Partnership Secretariat improved its own capacity to respond to the needs of its Partners. At the start of the Action, the Secretariat had one part-time technical officer and minimum administrative support. By the end of the Action, the Secretariat comprised a **Regional Director, a Senior Technical Advisor, a Seabird Programme Manager, a Development Manager, Finance and Office Manager and an Administrative Assistant**. The office, with this professional staff and with improved communications and support facilities, is now adequate to service the Partnership.

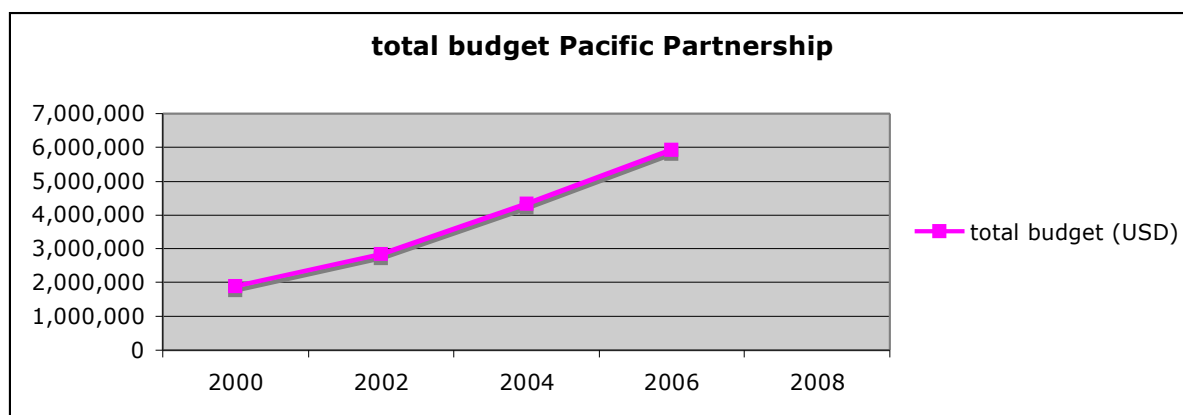
2. *A revised Strategic Plan will be produced by the BirdLife International Pacific Partnership (BIPP) by the end of the Project that details options for promoting the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity (including tropical forests).*

During the project period, the BirdLife Pacific Partnership prepared a Regional Strategy for 2009-2012 that was compiled through a series of meetings including a Partnership Meeting in 2007 hosted by PCS. The strategy is tailored for the needs of the Pacific region and identifies expected results against the main thematic areas of Species, Sites (IBAs), Habitats (including tropical forests) and People. It includes specific targets for promoting and implementing sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation on terrestrial IBAs. The strategy was officially adopted by the Partnership in 2008 and incorporated into the Birdlife International Global Strategy 2009-2012.

3. *Additional funding secured to support implementation of the strategic plan for the BIPP by end of the Project.*

The new Regional Strategy for the Pacific Partnership that was developed during the project period is supported by a Regional Fundraising Strategy that aims to raise the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the Regional Strategy. The overall funding secured by the Pacific Partnership grew from almost 2 million USD in 2000 to almost 6 million USD in 2006 (*see table below*). Data from 2008 are not yet available. The target for the period 2009-2012 (time frame of the new Regional Strategy) is to raise USD 30 million through the implementation of the Fundraising Strategy which consists of five strategic directions:

- I: develop and implement a regional fundraising strategy
- II: develop and implement national fundraising strategies (including capacity development)
- III: raise core funding for the Partnership and the Secretariat (e.g. through trust funds)
- IV: raise project funding for the Partnership and the Secretariat (e.g. shared projects)
- V: develop strong relationships with national governments, regional agencies and donors



Note: in 2000 data were available for 3 countries; in 2002: 7 countries; in 2004: 6 countries; in 2006: 5 countries

Expected Result 4:

“Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identified for priority small island states of the Pacific region.”

Logframe Indicators

1. List of priority Pacific small island states produced and agreed by June 2006.

During the Action, a **list of priority Pacific Island countries** was revised during the mid-term review using a prioritisation process undertaken and agreed with Partners.

Group 1. Main priorities

Four countries / territories were selected for detailed field-based research, based on the presence of BirdLife network organisations that wanted to participate and had the capacity - or potential to develop the capacity - to implement the project: Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau.

Group 2. Secondary priorities

A list of priority countries and territories for IBA desk-studies was also drawn up and included Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Pitcairn, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

Group 3. Lower priorities

Other Pacific islands were considered to be lower priority for identification under this Action. The US Territories of American Samoa and US Minor Outlying Islands (USMOI) were de-prioritised, American Samoa because it will be informed by the ongoing Samoa study (it is bio-geographically similar and recognised as being within the same Endemic Bird Area) and the USMOI because their only ornithological interest is seabirds which can be aligned with emerging work on Marine IBAs. Papua New Guinea was not included because the complexity and scale of IBA identification was beyond the scope of the Action.

Hawaii is subject to an IBA review being undertaken by US Partner, the Audubon Society, as part of a US-wide IBA inventory and this work was continuing at the end of Action. Other countries not considered a priority under this project include Australia and New Zealand because IBA studies were already being implemented by Partners in Australia (initiated in 2005 for completion in 2009) and New Zealand (initiated in 2006 with Marine IBAs, later to be expanded to include terrestrial IBAs).

2. IBAs assessed for 100% of priority small island states by end of the Project.

IBAs were researched and documented for **all priority countries and territories** (group 1 and group 2) by the end of the Action. IBA assessments are subject to continuous review, even where extensively researched, through an IBA Monitoring Framework (*see box below*).

Important Bird Areas are sites of international significance for the conservation of the world's birds. They are identified nationally through multi-stakeholder processes using rigorous, standardized criteria based upon the presence of bird populations of species of global conservation concern, assemblages of restricted-range and biome-restricted species, and large concentrations of congregatory species. To date more than 10,000 IBAs have been identified worldwide. IBAs are an integral part of the key biodiversity area approach to site-based conservation.

Since IBAs capture the bulk of diversity in many taxonomic groups, indices based on IBAs provide a good indicator of trends in the overall coverage of biodiversity by PAs. BirdLife is now rolling out a global programme to monitor the condition (**state**), threats (**pressures**) and conservation **responses** at IBAs using a simple standardized monitoring protocol, the so-called '**IBA Monitoring Framework**'.

3. Detailed field-based assessments of IBAs completed in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau by end of the Project

The **four field studies** are amongst the most extensively researched biodiversity assessments undertaken in Oceania. Field-based research components generated new and credible data on biodiversity priority sites, using birds as indicators. Other processes such as KBAs have not undertaken such extensive field research in the region.

An additional benefit of the field research was the generation new data on the occurrence and distribution of threatened species resulting in a number of changes to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. As a consequence, a number of species were reclassified, several species being assigned a lower threat status because larger or more extensive populations were discovered while several were placed in a higher threat category because the research demonstrated declines, limited distribution or smaller populations than previously estimated. This resulted in the appropriate prioritisation of management actions and resources. Important results were the re-classification of Fatuhiva Monarch *Pomorea whitneyi* and Tuamotu Kingfisher *Todiramphus godeffroyi* in French Polynesia to Critically Endangered leading to their recognition as conservation and funding priorities. The Fiji Long-legged warbler *Trichocichla rufa* was rediscovered under this Action after more than a century without credible scientific records and the species has been re-classified as Endangered.

2.3. What has been the outcome on both the final beneficiaries &/or target group (if different) and the situation in the target country or target region which the Action addressed?

National civil society

The role of the Action in strengthening national NGOs was clarified in the MTR's logframe revisions. Major beneficiaries of this change were the implementing partners - the Fiji Programme, Manu, SCO and PCS – all of which showed growth and enhanced capacity as a result of the Action. SCO advanced from an unstaffed NGO to an organisation with three full-time conservation officers, Manu from one staff member to three, and PCS from 15 staff to 24. All four civil society organisations developed and/or strengthened national partnerships with and support from government institutions and increased their planning capacity. An unexpected benefit was the development of a new NGO in Fiji. While not a planned project output, IBA identification and implementation of follow-up advocacy and conservation activities provided an environment that was favourable for the launching of a national NGO by Fiji stakeholders. The new NGO, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, became a fifth partner to benefit from this Action; it specifically benefited from the planning and fundraising expertise of the Fiji Programme team and project staff to develop and fund joint projects in Fiji.

Local civil society and communities

BirdLife International promotes the development of Site Support Groups (SSGs) as local management bodies for IBAs. SSGs are very diverse and there is no formal model or structure, other than they are typically comprised of landowners and local community members whose livelihoods and quality of life are linked to the sustainable management of IBAs. The project has led to the prioritisation of a framework for the establishment of SSGs and a strengthened network of NGOs to support them..

SSGs have been promoted in the proponent countries and have been established in Fiji and Palau with progress towards developing community conservation programmes in New Caledonia and French Polynesia. SSGs have been established in several IBAs in Fiji and in New Caledonia and have initiated the sustainable management of IBAs including development of community-based protected areas and management planning, the development of youth conservation groups, and the preparation, planning and undertaking of rodent eradications.

Local and provincial governments

Local and provincial governments involved in project implementation have directly benefited through enhanced capacity to support the management of IBAs. In Palau, state governments have had a key role in the IBA process; in New Caledonia, Governments of Province Nord and Sud; and provincial administrations in Fiji. Local governments also supported actions in French Polynesia.

National governments

National Governments have supported the IBA process, as exemplified by the forewords for three inventories being written by representatives of national governments. The research has given national governments a clear and credible set of biodiversity priorities to assist with the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and environmental legislation. National governments also have strengthened civil societies to implement NBSAP-related activities. This is demonstrated in French Polynesia where Manu is supported by the Government of French Polynesia to implement recovery programmes.

Regional and international institutions

The Action assisted the work of several regional and international organisations, the main beneficiaries being SPREP, CI/CEPF, PII and PILN. SPREP's terrestrial programme benefited through its member governments having available a set of biodiversity priorities to guide actions, while the Birds Working Group was rejuvenated to share and stimulate work on IBAs and bird conservation throughout the region. CI undertook a parallel process of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identification and benefited from IBA research. By definition, all IBAs are KBAs, so CI and BirdLife worked closely together to align the processes. The KBA process had mainly undertaken desk reviews on threatened taxa, with flowering plants and molluscs being the most commonly described. IBA data, particularly for assemblages of range restricted species or seabirds, augmented existing information. CEPF benefited through the availability of enhanced information on KBAs which informed their priority-setting for investment in the region. PII and PILN, both regional invasive species networks, have benefited through the availability of improved information and a set of agreed conservation priorities, and also through the joint implementation of alien species management projects on IBAs.

BirdLife International membership:

The overall Birdlife International community has benefited from the implementation of the project. The Pacific Partnership has been strengthened through the development of members in capacity, resources and Partnership status. The Partnership has been able to raise its profile at a regional level through participation in regional meetings and has become recognised as a

credible partnership that is capable of delivering measurable conservation results on the ground. This has been successful in attracting resources and support.

PII and PILN, both regional invasive species networks, have benefited through the availability of improved information and a set of agreed conservation priorities, and also through the joint implementation of alien species management projects on IBAs.

2.4. Please list all materials (and no. of copies) produced during the Action on whatever format (please enclose a copy of each item, except if you have already done so in the past). Please state how the items produced are being distributed and to whom.

Fiji: The Important Bird Area directory for Fiji, entitled *Important Bird Areas in Fiji: Conserving Fiji's Natural Heritage*, was launched in Fiji by the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Fiji in June 2006. The book identified 14 sites of global importance for biodiversity with the initial print run extended to 4000 copies through a donation from a private citizen that covered publishing, printing and some dissemination costs. A dissemination strategy was produced and the inventory was widely distributed through Government departments, local government, schools and communities. By the end of Action, 3400 copies had been distributed. The book is also available for purchase through Environmental Consultants Fiji www.environmentfiji.com/publications.html and the Natural History Book Service (NHBS) www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=147415

French Polynesia: The inventory for Manu was published as a PDF and disseminated in French Polynesia and on the website www.manu.pf/E_IBA.html. Further field research conducted in 2008 on remote marine IBAs, which was beyond the scope of the original Action, indicated that further sites will be added to the inventory and a hard copy will be published in 2009.

New Caledonia: The inventory for New Caledonia, *Zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux de Nouvelle-Caledonie*, was published in 2007 with a print run of 600 copies. It is a high quality, hard-cover publication, with 300 copies reserved for sale and 300 for dissemination to communities, decision makers and for regional advocacy purposes. It is available for sale through the Library in Noumea, the SCO Office and the NHBS website www.nhbs.com/title.php?tefno=153264

Palau: The inventory for Palau, *Important Bird Areas in Palau*, was published in 2008 with a print run of 1000 books. It has been disseminated to community leaders, all Palau schools, national and state leaders and partners. It is distributed through the PCS Office, Palau National Museum, and Palau International Coral Reef Centre. See also www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/10/palau_iba_book.html

Desk-based reviews have been written for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Pitcairn, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna and are being disseminated through SPREP. The Pitcairn directory was included in the RSPB publication *The Directory of Important Bird Areas in the UK's Overseas Territories* published in 2006 www.birdlife.org/news/news/2006/10/ukot_ibas.html

2.5. Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above 10.000€ awarded for the implementation of the action since the last interim report if any or during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor.

Not applicable: none awarded since the last interim report

2.6. Describe if the Action will continue after the support from the European Community has ended. Are there any follow up activities envisaged? What will ensure the sustainability of the Action?

The IBA Programme, in particular the promotion of sustainable management of sites, continued at the end of the Action and is projected to be expanded in accordance with the BirdLife International Regional Strategy 2009 – 2012. This strategy includes specific targets for the identification, monitoring and management of IBAs across the Pacific.

IBA identification: at the end of the Action, further work on the identification of IBAs was being undertaken in Samoa, Australia and New Zealand, and additional research was being carried out in Fiji and French Polynesia to locate and identify globally significant seabird colonies. Marine IBAs (MIBAs) were being described in New Zealand and additional funding was secured (after the project ended) to research other MIBAs in the Pacific, at first to research critical foraging areas around seabird colonies and later to include pelagic concentrations and migratory bottlenecks. The initiation of an IBA Programme in the Cook Islands has been declared a priority by the BirdLife Pacific Partnership.

IBA monitoring: An IBA monitoring programme has been introduced in Fiji (after the EC Action ended), and will be rolled out across the Pacific. This ‘framework’ assesses states, threats (pressures) and conservation actions (responses) at IBAs. It gives the Partnership information on trends and a consistent measure of the effectiveness of conservation interventions, identifying where resources should be focused and providing robust information for advocacy purposes.

IBA management: Community-based sustainable management projects were commenced and continued to be implemented at priority sites in Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau, and new activities at other sites were already foreseen before the Action ended. IBA management activities were also planned for ‘new IBAs’ that will come out of the IBA identification processes in Samoa, Australia and New Zealand (and, later, in the Cook Islands). Funding for these follow-up activities was partly obtained and partly still being sought.

Other follow-up activities: Additional activities were underway to further strengthen the Pacific Partnership, e.g. through targeted assistance with strategic planning, NGO governance, technical advice and fundraising. The Pacific Partnership and Secretariat also considered expansion of the Partnership into Micronesia and Melanesia following expressions of interest from NGOs and governments in those areas, these targets are funding dependent.

Sustainability: Sustainability of the Action was enhanced by the nature of the BirdLife Partnership. The main target groups were national NGOs and their in-country (government) partners. Each NGO has its own membership and Board of directors and a mission to promote the sustainable management of biodiversity - these are requirements for BirdLife Partners. The Action developed the capacity of each NGO to plan, resource and implement conservation action, supported the establishment of strong stakeholder networks at local, provincial and national levels, and provided a technically robust framework for IBA management. All these tools stayed with the NGOs after the Action ended and will guide future conservation programmes, in partnership with other agencies, in their countries. Similarly, the implementing partners, as BirdLife member NGOs, will keep benefiting from the services of the BirdLife Pacific Partnership Secretariat - which include training, facilitating lesson sharing, providing technical advice and fundraising.

2.7. Explain how the Action has mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as promotion of human rights⁴, gender equality⁵, democracy, good governance, children's rights

⁴ Including those of people with disabilities. For more information, see “Guidance note on disability and development” at http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/publications/docs/Disability_en.pdfhttp://ec.europa.eu/development/body/publications/docs/Disability_en.pdf

⁵ http://www.iiav.nl/epublications/2004/toolkit_on_mainstreaming_gender_equality.PDF

and indigenous peoples, environmental sustainability⁶ and combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region).⁷

Birdlife International has a clear policy against discrimination of any sort: *promotion of a harmonious working environment in which no employee feels under threat or intimidated on account of age, marital status, sex, race, colour, sexual orientation, religion or similar philosophical belief, politics, nationality, ethnic or national origin or disablement* and this expectation extends to Partner organisations.

This project has promoted gender equity through the implementing teams and agencies and the recruitment of staff has been on merit. At the end of the project, three of five conservation officers on the Fiji team and the Coordinator employed by Nature Fiji were female. Two of three implementing Partner Directors (Manu and PCS) were female; both the Technical Officer and the current and previous Terrestrial Conservation Officers at PCS and the Seabird Restoration Officer in Manu and the PPS development manager are female. This indicated women are well represented through the project team and in executive roles. The recruitment of staff also was representative of local and indigenous peoples. Most of the staff of the Fiji team, Nature Fiji and PCS are indigenous peoples.

2.8. How and by whom have the activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received, including from the beneficiaries.

The Action received extensive monitoring through national project steering committees, the regional management team, and three external reviews.

Project Steering Committees

Monitoring at national level was achieved through project steering committees that proved important to the success of the project by monitoring and endorsing project management decisions. These groups enabled national-level credibility and transparency by empowering stakeholders to be part of decision-making processes. Such devolution to national groups proved to be an effective model and has been repeated with follow-on projects.

Regional management team

Monitoring of technical outputs was undertaken by the BirdLife technical staff based in Fiji and the UK. Technical advisors visited all implementing partners during the Action. The Partners also reported directly to the Regional Co-ordinator. Initial quarterly reporting procedures, against a large number of indicators, were too onerous for implementing partners and the simplified logframe (post-MTR), combined with a 6-monthly technical reporting schedule and quarterly financial reporting, was more effective. The annual report format used following the MTR, with provision for reviewing progress and work planning, further aided monitoring of progress.

External reviews

Mid-term review

The first external review was the MTR undertaken in 2006 by Dr Paul van Gardingen, Professor of International Development from the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change and Sustainability, Edinburgh University. Dr Van Gardingen visited Fiji, New Caledonia and Palau, identifying a number of project strengths, in particular strong national-level partnerships and early evidence of sustainability of results. The overall assessment was favourable, and proposed a number of enhancements to the project management tool kit, in particular a revision of the logframe. The revised logframe gave greater emphasis to the development of Partners' and secretariat capacities to enhance the sustainability of results, and moved away from the more technical orientation used in the first logframe. The objectives and verifiable indicators were extensively revised, greatly easing project management and reporting.

⁶ Guidelines for environmental integration are available at: <http://www.environment-integration.eu/>

⁷ To refer to EC Guidelines on gender equality, disabilities...

External EC monitoring

The Action was also reviewed by two external monitoring missions for European Union-funded projects in the Pacific. The first, in 2006, was conducted by Karel Ameiji, and the second, an ex-post review, by Frans Geilfus, in 2008. The findings of both reviews were positive: the first was restricted to Fiji, noting a number of important issues, such as the small size of the secretariat's project management unit resulting in staff undertaking multiple roles, together with a lack of government capacity resulting in limitations on higher-level government-NGO partnerships. The ex-post review, with visits to Fiji, French Polynesia and New Caledonia, focussed on assessing impact and sustainability. Its conclusions were most positive with the project scoring highly (A & B) in all areas, demonstrating that it had been very effective in providing Partners with resource management tools and that its impacts were being sustained.

Feedback from beneficiaries

Feedback from Partners, as the main target, was assessed continuously through ongoing dialogue and, especially, through regional partnership meetings which provided a strong mechanism for consultation between Partners and secretariat. Overall feedback was positive, with Partners finding IBAs to be effective tools for managing biodiversity. Partners also reported good engagement from national and local governments through funding and technical support. It is important to note that Partners implementing this Action reported greater growth in capacity for undertaking or promoting site-based management, compared to partners from small island developing states that did not implement IBA studies.

2.9. What has your organisation/partner learned from the Action and how has this learning been utilised and disseminated?

The Action was a core element of the Pacific Partnership's strategic workplans (2000-2004 and 2004-2008) and was critical to the Partnership's development. The following important lessons were learned:

1. A key lesson was the immense added value in undertaking field research over and above the generation of data through desk studies. Field research strengthened Partners' capacities and national partnerships, trained staff and students, generated a sense of ownership and built a constituency supporting sustainable management of sites.
2. Sufficient capacity in the BirdLife Secretariat's project management unit was critical for the sustainability of the Action. As the Action progressed, the Secretariat grew, bringing in specialised managers including a fundraiser. This was crucial in supporting and resourcing Partners to ensure the sustainability of results.
3. There needs to be a balance between technical robustness and simplicity of design for similar projects on Pacific islands. The initial project design was complicated and technically demanding, so was simplified to ease implementation at all levels. This revision particularly simplified project implementation for implementing partners without compromising technical outputs.

3. Partners and other Co-operation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please provide specific information for each partner organisation.

BirdLife International: This Action was managed by BirdLife International through its Secretariat offices in Cambridge, UK and in Suva, Fiji. The role of the BirdLife Secretariat is to support BirdLife Partners with technical advice, strategic development, training, logistical support, fundraising and communications. It also facilitates the expansion of the Partnership into new countries. In this specific Action, the BirdLife Secretariat worked with Partner organisations in French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Palau towards the successful implementation of this project and as a result, the relationships between the Secretariat and these Partners have become much stronger.

See also www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific/work.html

The BirdLife Fiji Programme: The BirdLife Fiji Programme was established in 2002 by the BirdLife Pacific Partnership Secretariat, to implement conservation action in Fiji. At the time, there was no eligible NGO in Fiji that could be the BirdLife Partner NGO, hence it was decided to initiate a 'BirdLife country programme' pending the development of a national membership-based NGO that would qualify to become the BirdLife Partner in Fiji. In 2007, such an NGO was established, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, and since then the BirdLife Fiji Programme has been working towards handing over the BirdLife projects and programmes to NatureFiji-MareqetiViti once it has successfully applied for BirdLife Affiliate status. The BirdLife Secretariats in the UK and in Fiji are facilitating this process.

See also www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific/fiji_programme.html

French Polynesia: Manu entered the BirdLife Partnership and grew from BirdLife Affiliate to Partner-Designate status during the course of this Action. Partner-Designate status is the intermediate status between Affiliate to full Partner (*see box under paragraph 1.7.1*).

New Caledonia: SCO, as the smallest and least developed NGO at the start of the Action, remained an Affiliate until the end of the project. SCO and Manu, both Francophone members of the Pacific Partnership, increasingly exchanged information and experience during the Action and thus laid the basis for a strong, mutually beneficial relationship.

Palau: PCS progressed to Partner Designate status and then to full Partner during the Action. The Executive Director of PCS was also elected as a member of the BirdLife International Global Council, the highest decision-making body of BirdLife International. In this way, she has become a 'liaison' between the Global Council, the Global Secretariat in the UK, and the Pacific Partnership.

See also www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific/partnership.html

All BirdLife member organisations are regularly assessed through a formal review process (led by the Secretariat), specifically when they request to advance their Partnership status. Criteria include their democratic structure/transparency, professional implementation of conservation action, and strong relationships with all sectors of society. The 'upward movement' of members across the BirdLife strata is indicative of the growth of NGOs as effective conservation organisations. All members meet in regional and global partnership meetings and develop joint regional and global strategies. Relationships between the BirdLife Secretariat in Fiji and the Pacific Partner NGOs, as well as between the Partners themselves, were strengthened during this Action as a result of increased technical and institutional cooperation and the various (Partnership) meetings.

3.2. Is the partnership to continue? If so, how? If not, why?

The partnerships between the BirdLife International Secretariat, the Partner NGOs and between the Partner NGOs themselves are all expected to continue. Being a BirdLife member NGO is not time-bound, but is a long-term agreement to work together as an international alliance with similar objectives to improve bird and biodiversity conservation at local, national and international levels. BirdLife Partners can terminate their membership, or, in the case of activities prejudicial to the interests of BirdLife International, the Global Council may withdraw Partnership status. However, neither event is foreseen for any of the member NGOs that participated in this Action.

3.3. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

Relationships between BirdLife International, the implementing Partner NGOs and State authorities in the four main Action countries have without exception been excellent. In each country, the implementing Partner established first-rate relationships with government stakeholders which, in all cases, have been integral to decision-making process through participation in national project steering committees. Key government agencies in each country committed resources to the Action. In all cases, relationships were enhanced over the lifetime of the Action, and were especially strengthened by the provision of credible resource management and conservation priorities through the IBA programme.

3.4. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- *Associate(s) (if any)* - not applicable
- *Sub-contractor(s) (if any)* - not applicable
- *Final Beneficiaries and Target groups*

Local civil society and communities – The relationship with local civil society has been excellent. The Action provided a unique opportunity to work with and alongside local communities very widely across the proponent countries. Communities were involved in the fieldwork and participated in surveys through guiding and by service provision in the villages. The process was explained to landowners, because IBAs are a non-statutory designation and can help communities manage land and attract resources which has resulted in communities invariably being well displaced towards the project and implementing Partners. Following initial awareness work, a more structured programme of social marketing has been developed, most advanced in Palau and Fiji, where SSGs are established on key sites

Local and provincial governments – good relationships have been maintained with local governments; in Fiji all site-based work is undertaken with the approval and usually in conjunction with provincial administrations; in New Caledonia, the two provincial governments of Grande Terre have supported the project and increased their support for the Action; in Palau, state governments have been instrumental in the action (all sat on the steering committee); and in French Polynesia excellent relationships have been established with local mayors.

National civil society – during the course of the Action, relationships have been strengthened with implementing Partners as evidenced by progression of *SOP Manu* to Partner Affiliate and PCS to Full Partner status. Good relationships have also been developed with various non-partner national NGOs and associations including the National Trust in Fiji.

National governments – the proponents have maintained good relationships with all relevant national level government departments, namely the CBD focal points for each country and other departments with biodiversity and land use responsibilities. The action has provided improved information on priority areas for CBD focal points. The positive relationships are

evidenced by partnership projects (for example with PCS and Government in Palau) and through the funding of follow up work by DIREN in French Polynesia.

Regional and international institutions – National NGOs in other Pacific Partner countries - The Pacific Partnership was strengthened through the development of members' capacity, resources and Partnership status. The Partnership was able to raise its profile through participation in various regional and global meetings and became recognised as a credible network capable of delivering measurable conservation results on the ground, and which has been successful in attracting resources and support. This has a spin-off positive impact on the four BirdLife Pacific Partner NGOs that did not participate in this Action (Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands and Samoa).

BirdLife International membership – The BirdLife Partners implementing the Action are all membership-based organisations. The membership of the Partners was maintained over the duration of the project and members were provided with information and project outputs through newsletters and meetings. The evidence indicated that overall relations with their members' base were improved by the action

- *Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc)*

National NGOs in other Pacific Partner countries - The Pacific Partnership was strengthened through the development of members' capacity, resources and Partnership status. The Partnership was able to raise its profile through participation in various regional and global meetings and became recognised as a credible network capable of delivering measurable conservation results on the ground, and which has been successful in attracting resources and support. This has a spin-off positive impact on the four BirdLife Pacific Partner NGOs that did not participate in this Action (Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands and Samoa).

3.5. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

The participating organisations in this Action linked their own activities with those of other organisations across the Pacific region. The following bullet points serve as examples:

- CEPF funded project for the restoration of IBAs in Fiji (Vat-u-ira) and Palau (Kayangel)
- Two Packard Foundation funded project to research and promote the restoration of seabird colonies in Fiji and French Polynesia
- An Ecosystem based management project in Palau (Babeldaob)
- The Action also linked with the Sovi Basin Protected Area Project in Fiji managed by Conservation International and the National Trust.
- The outputs of the project have also linked closely with designing priorities for the CEPF investment in the Micronesia-Polynesia hotspot for projects opening in 2009.

3.6. If your organisation has received previous EC grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EC grants).

BirdLife International has received previous grants from the EC but not in view of strengthening the same target groups.

3.7. How do you evaluate co-operation with the services of the Contracting Authority?

Excellent. The EC Delegation in Suva has been most supportive and responsive to the needs of project implementers. This cooperation became even better over the course of time. The project was ambitious for a small project team and some very small partners unfamiliar with project management on this scale. The activities have been completed well but the pressures of managing the project and the wider programme resulted in some delays in reporting for which the Delegation has been highly supporting and accommodating.

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

Branding

BirdLife International promoted the profile of the EC as the major donor in the IBA process in the Pacific region. The project received a high media profile with the EC given credit in media releases, publications and web-based information. Press releases acknowledged the EC as the project's main sponsor with further promotion through Partners' magazines and newsletters.

EC Logo

The EC logo was prominent on all IBA directories and other materials that were produced during the Action, such as posters, pamphlets and leaflets, as well as in the letterhead of the BirdLife Pacific Partnership Secretariat and the Fiji Programme.

Acknowledgements

All international and regional presentations on matters relating to the project included the EC logo and acknowledgements. The EC is mentioned prominently on BirdLife International's website: www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific/pacific_in_action/completed_projects.html#c

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on EuropeAid Co-operation Office website? If so, please state your objections here.

No objections.

Name of the contact person for the Action: Mr Don Stewart

Signature:

Location: Suva, Fiji

Date report due: 1 October 2008

Date report sent: 15 May 2009